DATED MATERIAL. PLEASE DELIVER BY DECEMBER 4, 1993

1000015 P 01726
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2327 W LINCOLN AVE
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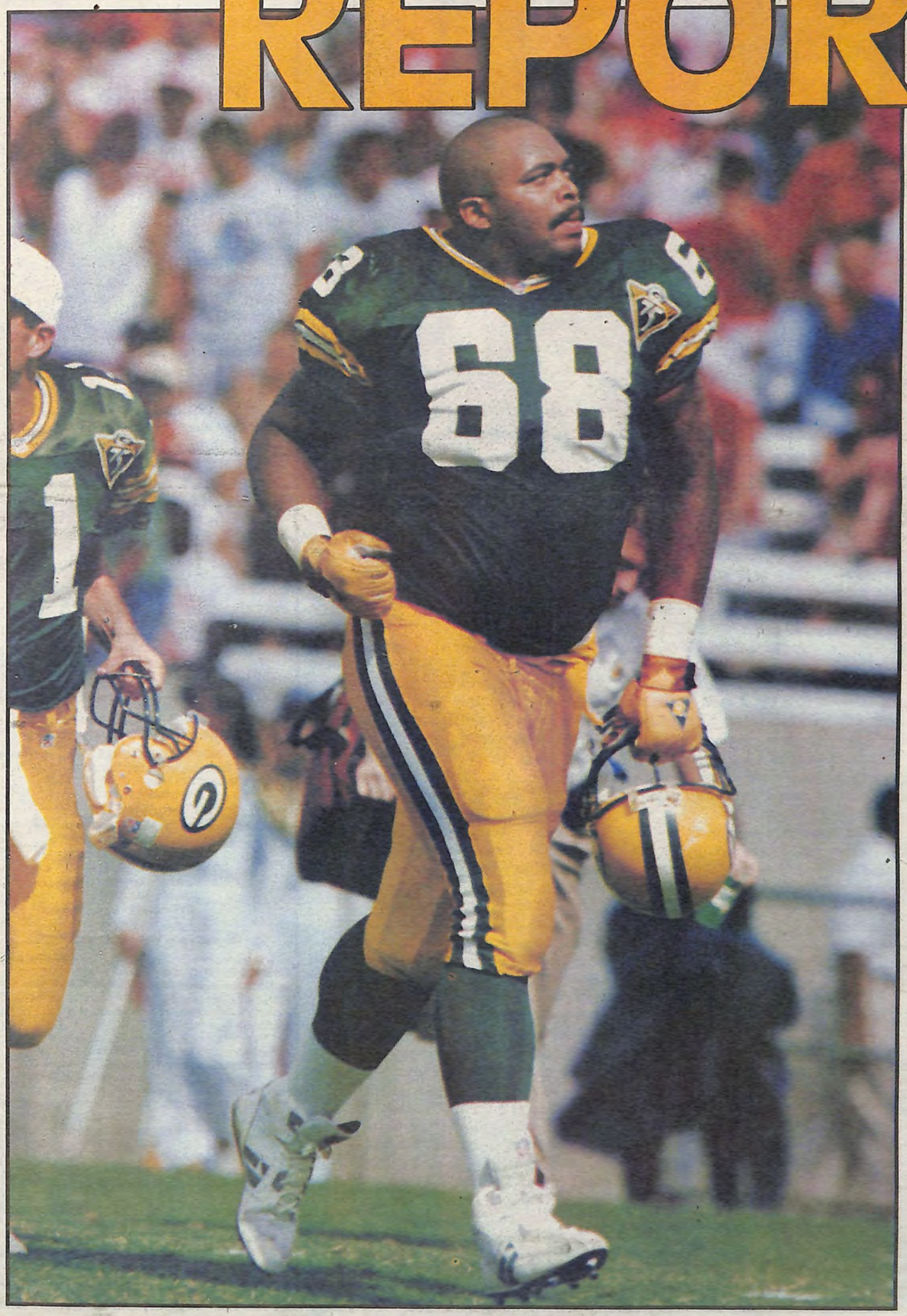
Ray Nitschke's

PACKER REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE GREEN BAY PACKERS AND THE NFL.

Vol. 21 No. 17 December 4, 1993



Pack. 13 Bucs 10

Tied For Top Spot

Patterson plans comeback

Widell, Wildung featured

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Commentary

Flat early, Packers turn it on when they have to

Two things happened here early: The Packers opened flat and the Buccaneers came to play.

Every week you have an important game. This was important because the Pack, for the first time in a long time, had a chance to be in first place if they won.

As the game went on, there was not much offense throughout the game. It was a punting duel for a long part of the game, 19 punts all together (the NFL record, by the way, is 31 in a 1933 Bear game here).

But good teams rise to the occasion. When they had to, when they had to go

RAY NITSCHKE

Darrell Thompson found himself surrounded on this carry, but the Packer running game showed good balance for the second week in a row. Thompson finished with 43 yards and fullback Edgar Bennett totaled 39.
-- David J. Garot photo

score the game-winning touchdown, the Packer offense did it. That last drive has to be one of the best drives they had in a very long time.

It was a drive engineered by Brett Favre, who had a fairly tough go throughout the game. He came up with some big plays. That's what you have to do and that's what you have to do to be in first place.

This was a big victory for the team. Everybody expected them to blow the Bucs out. The Bucs, though, came to play. They played very solid. They were very aggressive on defense. They didn't make any turnovers. They played well.

Turnovers, or lack thereof, were important for Green Bay, too. That's one thing the Packer offense did well: Even though the offense was spotty — including a lot of dropped passes. The Packer offense couldn't come up with big plays and watched Tampa kind of cut off Sterling Sharpe most of the game — yet when it came down to it, the Packer offense drove 75 yards in 15 plays. The whole game came down to that drive. That's what you have to do to win in the NFL or any football game.

No matter what the score might be, the Packers are tied for first place.

They had their destiny in their own hands. They have a lot of football left to play. But they are in position now to make things happen for themselves.

Winning is a habit. I have stressed that repeatedly in these columns because that's what Lombardi taught us. Winning really is a habit.

The Packers came out with a very big victory. They could have won by 40, but they did the things they had to do in order to win. It's a 60-minute win — and the Packers used almost all of them to win.

After two big victories over Detroit and New Orleans, they might have been down, but they hung in there, stayed together as a team and they came off the field with a victory.

It's nice they got out with no key injuries.

Now they are in Chicago and then they go to San Diego after that. Chicago is coming around. The Bears are playing at home, they are coming together.

San Diego was a pre-season pick as a contender but the Chargers haven't done so well. Still, they'll be at home.

Each week is obviously another challenge. The Packers must continue to take one week at a time, take one opponent at a time, and that's how you get to the playoffs and to the Super Bowl.

As for this win building confidence for those future contest, when you don't play so well and you come out with a victory, it is helpful. It is certainly encouraging to the team. There will be some weeks you don't play well — but winning is what it's all about. That's why they are out there as professionals — to win. As a team, you gain confidence.

The more you win, the more you want to win and it keeps on going. Everybody helps. It takes a team. It's special teams. It's guys coming off the bench. It's guys who don't get to play much but when they have the opportunity to, they come in and they perform. Tight end Ed West and linebacker Keo Coleman are two examples. That's what you have to have to win over 16 games and more: The guys don't get to play much, but when they are called on, they produce. The Packers are getting that. That's very encouraging to see.

NFL standings

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Green Bay	7	4	0	.636	238	188
Detroit	7	4	0	.636	210	176
Chicago	6	5	0	.545	171	147
Minnesota	5	6	0	.455	179	217
Tampa Bay	3	8	0	.273	153	274
Eastern						
N.Y. Giants	8	3	0	.727	206	138
Dallas	7	4	0	.636	234	169
Philadelphia	5	6	0	.455	175	212
Phoenix	3	8	0	.273	200	195
Washington	2	9	0	.182	165	256
Western						
San Francisco	8	3	0	.727	332	196
New Orleans	7	4	0	.636	224	229
Atlanta	5	6	0	.455	228	250
L.A. Rams	3	8	0	.273	151	246

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Miami	9	2	0	.818	234	186
Buffalo	8	3	0	.727	202	152
N.Y. Jets	7	4	0	.636	240	170
Indianapolis	3	7	0	.300	154	233
New England	1	10	0	.091	126	223
Central						
Houston	7	4	0	.636	256	180
Pittsburgh	6	5	0	.545	235	196
Cleveland	5	6	0	.455	202	225
Cincinnati	1	10	0	.091	128	251
Western						
Kansas City	8	3	0	.727	204	170
Denver	7	4	0	.636	283	197
L.A. Raiders	6	5	0	.545	194	201
Seattle	5	6	0	.455	174	186
San Diego	4	6	0	.400	164	195

Ray Nitschke's PACKER REPORT

A Royle Publication devoted exclusively to the Green Bay Packers and the NFL.

Vol. 21 No. 17 Dec. 4, 1993

On the cover...

Tackle Joe Sims.
-- David J. Garot photo

In the middle ...

Reggie White and Johnny Holland combine to make a stop.
-- David J. Garot photo

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MEMBER
Professional Football Publications Assoc.

NATIONAL ADVERTISING
Ron Royle
608-837-5161 Ext. 276
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612-735-1501

CIRCULATION DEPT.
Patty Royle/Sandy Wenger 608/837-2200

Ray Nitschke's Packer Report (USPS 998-200) (ISSN 1049-1902) is published 26 times a year including two weeks in January, monthly April, May, June, July; weekly August through December, except two bye dates, by Royle Publishing Co., 112 Market St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

Ray Nitschke's Packer Report is a wholly owned subsidiary of Royle Publishing and not an official publication of the Green Bay Packers.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS — $29.95 per year (26 issues). First class mail an additional $30 per year. Air mail an additional $70 per year. Second class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590, and additional offices.

POSTMASTER SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO — *Ray Nitschke's Packer Report*, 112 Market Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

GENERAL OFFICES — 112 Market Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590, (608) 837-5161.

PLEASE SEND SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS TO — 112 Market Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590, (608) 837-2200.

EDITORIAL OFFICES — P.O. Box 9605, Green Bay, WI 54308, (414) 465-6766.

With Green Bay's offense sputtering most of the day Sunday, the Packer defense and special teams kept the home team in the game. Bryce Paup returned to action, garnering two sacks to tie Reggie White for the team lead at 10 1/2 apiece. In this motor-drive sequence, Paup leaves Buc blockers strewn in his wake, drives into Craig Erickson, spins him around and pulls the rookie quarterback down.

-- David J. Garot photos

Final drive propels Pack

Just enough big plays for 13-10 win

by Joe DiGiovanni

Brett Favre got a bruised thigh to go with his bruised ego near the end of Sunday's game against Tampa Bay, but that failed to stop him from finding Sterling Sharpe in the end zone.

Favre, leading a mostly-inept offense which heard boos from the 56,995 fans at Lambeau Field, connected with Sharpe on a two-yard touchdown pass with 1:21 left to lift the Packers to a 13-10 victory over the Buccaneers and into a share of first place in the NFC Central Division.

The touchdown came one play after the Packer quarterback suffered a severe thigh bruise trying to run into the end zone.

"I went over to the sidelines, I bent down and I knew I was going to come back," said Favre, who has struggled at times this season and heard criticism from Packer fans. "In that situation, I couldn't let the guys down.

"We'd come too far for me to stop right there," he said.

Best record after 11 games since '78

Green Bay has won six of its last seven games to improve to 7-4, its best record after 11 games since it equaled that mark in 1978. The Packers are tied with Detroit atop the Division and are one game ahead of Sunday's opponent, the 6-5 Bears.

Favre suffered the injury with 1:27 to go and Tampa leading, 10-6. From the Bucs' 3, he rolled right and attempted to run it in.

Safety Barney Bussey and defensive end Shawn Price pursued though, and flipped the quarterback into the air at the 2. Bussey's helmet hit squarely on Favre's thigh, sending him limping to the huddle and calling time out.

Reserve quarterback Ty Detmer quickly started throwing on the sideline, but Favre returned after the timeout.

"I had to call timeout," Favre said. "I couldn't have went if we had lined up and played right there."

On third down, Favre rolled right again, running strongly, and looked at tight end Ed West and fullback Edgar Bennett.

Then he found Sharpe. The All-Pro wide receiver lined up on the left side and ran a crossing pattern right, finding a clear spot in the Tampa zone.

With Price and defensive lineman Rhett Hall chasing, Favre found an opening and hit Sharpe squarely for the winning touchdown with 1:16 to go.

Favre's toughness impresses White

"I've always thought Brett was tough," said Reggie White, who had four tackles. "That was one of the things that impressed me about coming here, was his toughness, his will to win.

"When you see a guy coming off limping, I'm pretty sure that had to inspire everybody else," he said.

It was Sharpe's 44th touchdown reception, moving him into fourth place for TD catches on the Packers' all-time list, past Bill Howton.

Holmgren said he was going to put Detmer in, and would have called the same play, but Favre said he could keep playing.

"Typically, those injuries, the longer you sit the more tight it gets," the coach said. "He certainly had enough mobility on that last play to make it happen."

The Bucs took possession on their 19, but Scott Erickson's first pass was dropped by wide receiver Courtney Hawkins. John Jurkovic broke through for an eight-yard sack on second down and wide receiver Charles Wilson, a former Packer, dropped a third-down pass.

Hawkins threw across the middle on fourth down, but rookie cornerback Doug Evans had good coverage and the ball fell incomplete to seal the victory.

Favre was 8-of-12 for 79 yards on the final drive, and had three good passes dropped by receivers. Wide receiver Mark Clayton was key on the drive, making a clutch third down three-yard reception for a first down and following it with a 28-yard gain to the Tampa 17.

"He was a little more accurate, you might say," Holmgren said of Favre's passing on the final drive.

Sharpe finished with six receptions for 43 yards, but was held in check by Tampa until the final drive, when he caught three passes for 24 yards. He had 10 catches for 147 yards and four touchdowns against the Bucs Oct. 24 in Tampa, but was often covered by cornerback Ricky Reynolds this time. Reynolds did not play in the teams' first meeting this season.

"They had a pretty good plan against Sterling and did a very good job doubling him," Holmgren said.

Bucs take lead with 7:33 to play

Tampa, 3-8, took a 10-6 lead midway through the fourth quarter behind former Packer running back Vince Workman. He gained 16 yards rushing on two plays and nine yards on a pass reception, giv-

Continued on page 9

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GAME STATISTICS

SCORING SUMMARY

Green Bay Packers	**0**	**3**	**3**	**7**	**13**
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	**0**	**0**	**3**	**7**	**10**

Packers, 2, 1:08, C. Jacke 24-yard field goal (11-39, 5:22) 0-3

Buccaneers, 3, 12:26, M. Husted 30-yard field goal (7-48, 2:34) 3-3

Packers, 3, 4:39, C. Jacke 36-yard field goal (4-8, 2:12) 3-6

Buccaneers, 4, 7:33, C. Hawkins 9-yard pass from C. Erickson (M. Husted, kick) (8-63, 3:42) 10-6

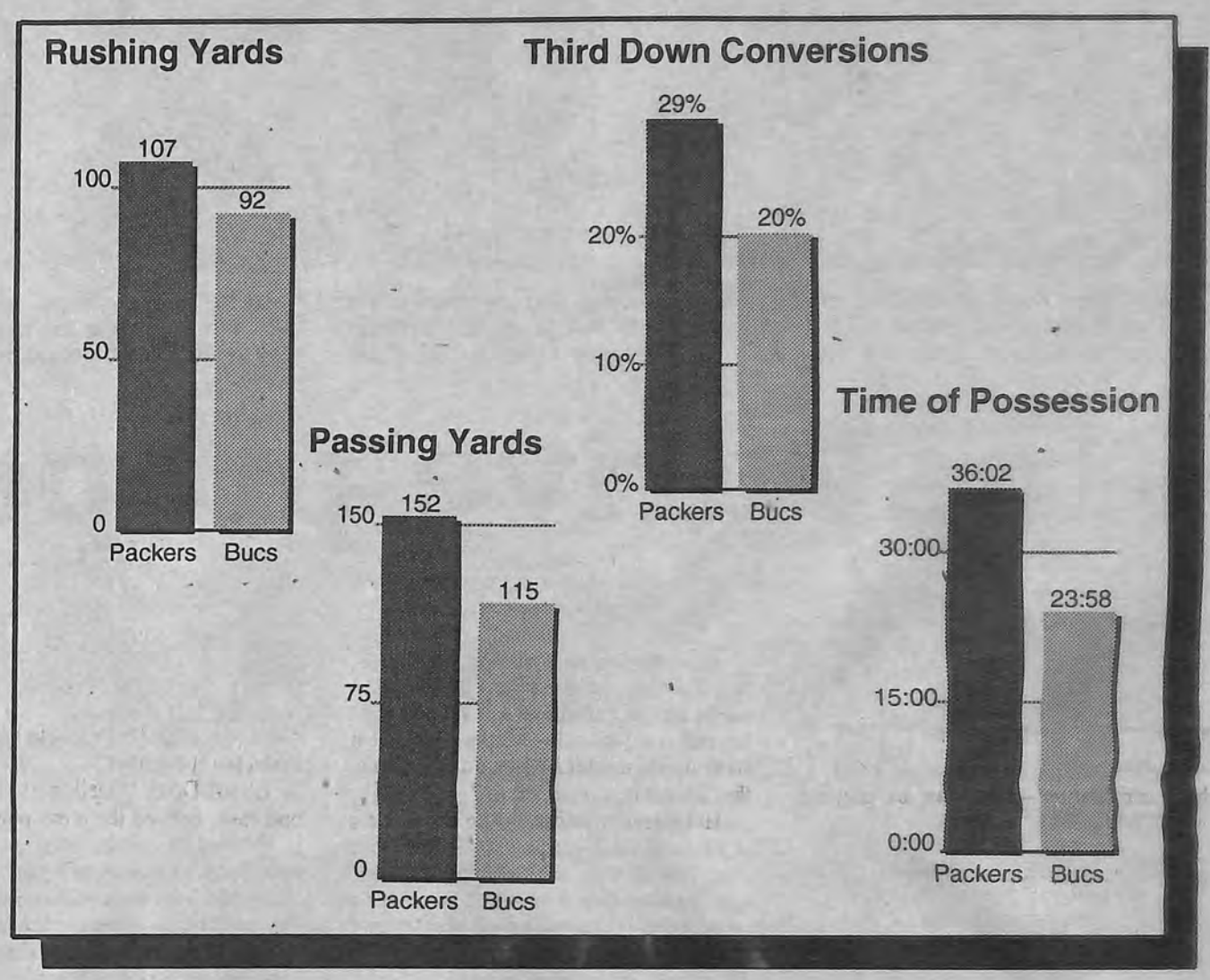
Packers, 4, 1:16, S. Sharpe 2-yard pass from B. Favre (C. Jacke, kick) (15-75, 6:17) 10-13

Attendance: 56,995; Tickets Distributed: 59,478; Unused: 2,483; Time: 3:06

Weather: Partly cloudy, temperature 29, humidity 70, wind NW 7 mph

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Bucs	Packers
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	11	14
By Rushing	4	3
By Passing	7	10
By Penalty	0	1
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	3-15-20%	5-17-29%
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	0-1-0%	1-1-100%
TOTAL NET YARDS	207	259
Total Offensive Plays (inc. time thrown passing)	60	68
Average gain per offensive play	3.5	3.8
NET YARDS RUSHING	92	107
Total Rushing Plays	22	30
Average gain per rushing play	4.2	3.6
NET YARDS PASSING	115	152
Times thrown — yards lost attempting to pass	3-29	2-7
Gross yards passing	144	159
PASS ATTEMPTS-COMPLETIONS-HAD INT.	35-12-0	36-23-0
Average gain per pass play (inc. # thrown passing)	3.0	4.0
KICKOFFS-In End Zone-Touchbacks	3-1-1	4-1-1
PUNTS Number and Average	10-33.6	9-41.1
Had Blocked	0	0
FGs-PATs Had Blocked	0-0	0-0
TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE (Not Including Kickoffs)	39	39
No. and Yards Punt Returns	3-39	6-39
No. and Yards Kickoff Returns	3-48	2-36
No. and Yards Interception Returns	0-0	0-0
PENALTIES Number and Yards	7-39	7-55
FUMBLES Number and Lost	1-0	1-0
TOUCHDOWNS	1	1
Rushing	0	0
Passing	1	1
DEFENSIVE/KICKING GAME	0/0	0/0
EXTRA POINTS Made-Attempts	1-1	1-1
FIELD GOALS Made-Attempts	1-1	2-2
SAFETIES	0	0
FINAL SCORE	10	13
TIME OF POSSESSION	23:58	36:02



GREEN BAY PACKERS

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Thompson	16	43	2.7	9	0
Bennett	10	39	3.9	8	0
Favre	4	25	6.3	27	0

PASSING	Att.	Com.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Favre	36	23	159	2	7	1	28	0

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Sharpe	6	43	15	1
Clayton	4	40	28	0
Bennett	4	22	12	0
West	3	26	11	0
Brooks	3	17	11	0
Thompson	2	5	5	0
Harris	1	6	6	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Wagner	9	370	41.1	2	2	52

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Brooks	6	2	39	20	0
Downed	2	0	0	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Brooks	2	0	36	19	0
Touchback	1	0	0	0	0

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Workman	18	77	4.3	21	0
Harris	2	10	5.0	8	0
Royster	2	5	2.5	4	0

PASSING	Att.	Com.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Erickson	35	12	144	3	29	1	40	0

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Hawkins	6	99	40	1
Workman	4	18	9	0
Wilson	1	20	20	0
Harris	1	7	7	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Stryzinski	10	336	33.6	0	3	43

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Hawkins	3	2	39	35	0
Downed	2	0	0	0	0
Touchback	2	0	0	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Wilson	3	0	48	26	0
Touchback	1	0	0	0	0

GREEN BAY PACKERS
Unofficial

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Holland	3	6	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Koonce	1	6	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Paup	4	2	2.0	21.0	0	1	0
Jurkovic	3	3	1.0	8.0	0	0	0
Butler	2	3	0.0	0.0	0	2	0
White	3	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Bennett	2	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Evans	2	2	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Brock	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Teague	1	2	0.0	0.0	0	2	0
Coleman	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Buckley	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	2	0
Chmura	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Prior	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Thompson	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Wagner	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Willis	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Wilson	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS
Unofficial

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Nickerson	9	6	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Mayhew	5	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Carter	4	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Gray	4	3	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Ahanotu	2	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Price	2	3	1.0	2.0	0	1	0
Williams	2	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Reynolds	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Bussey	3	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Dotson	2	2	1.0	5.0	0	0	0
Thomas	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Seals	0	2	0.0	0.0	0	2	0
Mack	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Wilson	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Brownlow	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Buckley	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
DuBose	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Gruber	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Jones	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Moore	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Wilson	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

Commentary

Veterans say win creates confidence

AL PAHL

After a game like Sunday's 13-10 come-from-behind win, sometimes it's best to seek the counsel of a veteran.

Particularly veterans like Reggie White and Mark Clayton, who have weathered a number of storms, preferably on winning teams.

"To me it says this: We can go out and not play too well and still win," White said. That's what good teams do. They are able to do that.

"That's what Dallas has been able to do in the past. Washington. They can go some places and play some bad games but they still win.

"So what it says to me is that once we get on top of our game, I don't think anybody can beat us — once we are playing well," White said.

Clayton: Biggest 1993 confidence boost

Tight end Ed West has worn a Packer uniform longer than anybody else currently on the roster. "I think it's a sign we have a decent ballclub when we can go out, with all the mistakes and penalties we made today, and still come up with a victory."

Asked whether this was the biggest confidence-boosting win of the year, Clayton replied, "I believe it is. The New Orleans game was as big. But this has to be as big, if not bigger, because we knew if we won, we'd be in a tie for first place.

"We still haven't played our best game but sometimes you are going to have to win 'ugly' games. This was one of them. We are fortunate to come out with a victory."

Said Coach Mike Holmgren, "I think it's a great sign. In fact, I just got finished telling the team we do things together. Sometimes it's going to be a game like this. Sometimes maybe, it's a high-scoring game. You never know. But that's not the important thing. The important thing is we are together as a team. We win together. We go through the tough times together. And there were a lot of happy guys in there, helping each other out, patting each other on the back. They know it's not always easy. It's fun to win a close one. We lost a couple close ones. Now it's fun to win one."

Believing in togetherness

Sometimes it's one thing for a coach to preach togetherness as Holmgren did in the above paragraph but another thing for his team to believe and live that.

Not so in Green Bay, says White: "When we don't play well, it's everybody because there are some things we can do on defense that could have put the offense in a better position. And there are some things we could have done on special teams to put the offense in better position. So it's not like we said, 'Hey, we played great, the offense didn't.'

"One of the worst things we can do as a unit is get down on the offense. We made sure that when they got off the field we were doing our best to encourage the guys. It isn't like we are so perfect that we can complain about bad things happening on offense. We have to control our own selves as a defensive unit.

"That's one of the great things about being here," White said. "I think part of the reason the offense was able to do what it did at the end was they didn't hear nobody complaining when they came off the field. When you do that, then you look more towards the positive."

In fact, White added, "We could have run for two yards and thrown for 10 yards, and if we'd have had that drive at the end and won it — all the rest of that stuff don't matter. We won the game, that's what it boils down to."

Holmgren's never going to say it's okay to net 12 yards, but he sees the same bottom line as White: "I never use that phrase (winning ugly). I never have and I never will. Winning is winning. And it was a great win for us. If we win 3-2 or 47-46, or whatever the score is, the 'W' is the important thing."

Packer offense cranks it up

Of course, the plays of the game for Packer fans came on their team's final significant possession, when Brett Favre directed the offense 75 yards in 15 plays, chewing up 6:17 en route to the game-winning touchdown.

"The last drive was a real credit to our offense," said Holmgren. "We had our backs against the wall obviously and we had to have that drive to win and they did it and put it together."

Guard Doug Widell, making his second start, noticed the atmosphere change in the huddle on the final drive. "That last drive felt so different," he said. "Whether it was what they were doing or our execution, we were able to move the ball and get confidence as we were going. It felt a lot different than the rest of the game. It kind of felt like we woke up that last drive."

Said West, "We had confidence. We had confidence all day long. We just did a lot of things to hurt ourselves (early) — but when it counted, we went in there and took care of business."

Asked whether this was the biggest drive he's been a part of here, the 10th-year veteran replied, "Oh, without a doubt. I thought the guys had a lot of

Continued on page 9

Free agent linebacker Keo Coleman (54) made his second straight start in place of the injured Wayne Simmons Sunday. Here tackling former Packer Vince Workman with the help of George Koonce, Coleman finished with two tackles and one pass defensed.

-- David J. Garot photo

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Doug Widell

Former Bronco likes Packers' chances, fans

Former Bronco Doug Widell acknowledged after Sunday's victory that other Central Division teams will be gunning for his present team, now tied for first place. But he also noted that if the Packers intend to go to the playoffs, they must overcome those who seek to overthrow them.
-- David J. Garot photo

"It was very sudden for me...I had no idea they were trying to trade me, so it came as a big shock."

Doug Widell, quietly relishing a key victory over the Lions on a day off, was reflecting upon the August afternoon he had abruptly become a Packer by way of a trade — a transaction which looks even better today than it did then.

From Widell's perspective at the time of a draft-choice trade, he had reason to be shocked. He had, after all, started 58 consecutive games at right guard for the Broncos and presumably become a fixture in their line.

He also had reason to be disappointed, initially, considering he was not only losing his starting streak — there was not time to become sufficiently conversant

LEE REMMEL

with the Packer offense prior to the impending league opener — but starting status as well. The Packer coaches made it clear incumbent Rich Moran and newly-acquired Harry Galbreath would be the starting guards going into the season.

There also were other considerations. For one, Widell would be leaving behind his brother, Dave, who would remain a member of the Broncos' offensive line.

And on the home front, his wife Colleen was not overly happy to be leaving the Denver area, where she had "settled in."

What a difference three months make

Fast forwarding to the present, we discover what a difference three months have made. Doug, no longer at sea emotionally or professionally — and a starter once again — is now happy in his new NFL home.

"I feel comfortable here," said Widell, who has stepped in at left guard following the injury loss of Moran without missing a proverbial beat. "It's a nice organization to be with. The organization is top-notch and smaller cities are more to my liking."

The feeling, from the Packers' standpoint, is mutual.

"Doug was a good acquisition," said line Coach Tom Lovat, who proceeded to establish a kind of correlation between Widell's advent as a starter and some of the Packers' recent on-field successes.

"He came in and started the Denver game and we won it," Tom began. "He started the New Orleans game, and we won that...And he started the Detroit game, and we won that one.

"So he's stepped in and really done the job. They always say you're only one play away from being a starter. He's been prepared to be doing it — and he's done it.

Widell also brings other less tangible but equally valuable attributes to the line, Lovat points out.

"He blends in well with the other guys and he's a hard worker — he has a good work ethic....He's playing next to Rut (left tackle Ken Ruettgers) and has picked up kind of where Rich left off.

"We're glad we've got him."

Moving, learning, playing

So, to be sure, is Widell. But he is quick to admit it hasn't been easy.

Asked if the hardest part of the transition had been the physical move or adapting to a new system, he replied, "A little bit of everything. The move, from the standpoint of family — all there is is my wife, of course, but she had made a number of good friends and settled in in Denver. It was pretty tough on her.

"Then trying to learn a new system. Training camp was over and it's much easier to learn a new system in camp. Then the installation schedule is given to you and...you learn it in a sequential kind of way.

"The way it was given to me, you learn it all at the same time...James Campen was a really big help — he helped me out a lot.

"In that situation, the best thing is to learn the basics and then just learn the game plan for that week...It's harder to learn the whole offense that way because it takes time before you can group things together."

And how long had it taken?

"I would say about right around the fourth week I was here. And you're still learning things as you go on. But that happens with every offense. The longer you stay in one offense, the more you learn, which in turn helps you become a better player."

One factor that helped ease his transition, Doug reported, was that "this year Denver put in a new offense and it's similar to this one. I think the basic philosophy is pretty close. So I could draw off that. That made it a little easier coming here — mainly in the passing game. There were fewer similarities in the run game."

Although his starting streak went by the boards in the moving process, Widell still has one string intact — a consecutive-game skein which had reached 74 — matching his uniform number — in the Detroit game Nov. 21.

"That's still going," he acknowledged with a smile. "I played alongside Ken Lanier at Denver. He had the club record there — something like 137...When I was there, I thought it would be nice to get up to those numbers.

"I guess 58 consecutive starts was pretty good," Doug admitted. "But I knew that was ended when I was traded...When I got here, somebody asked me about that (the streak). I thought it was more important for me to get to know the offense rather than go out there and get somebody hurt. To try to start after 9 or 10 days — whatever it was — I didn't think I would know the offense well enough to be effective.

"And when I got here, they had guys who could play. Frankie (Winters) was backing up there, ready to step in and play. So there was no need for me to start."

'I am not a finesse player'

Widell, who made all 58 starts at right guard for the Broncos, is still adjusting to the positional move he was required to make upon arriving in Green Bay — the transfer to left guard.

"I still don't feel as comfortable at left guard as I did at right guard," he said. "There are some things I need to work on, but in time, I think I'll have that down. When things get a little instinctive on the left side, as they were on the right, I will be playing better...There's always room for improvement — I haven't played great. (But) I have confidence in myself that I can get the job done. I don't feel I've played as well as I think I can.

"All through my career, it's been said of me that I'm a better run blocker than pass blocker. I hate to get labeled in any way. But that's what I've been labeled, I guess."

Asked what he considers his best asset, Widell rejoined, "I'm not a finesse player — more of a strength player." Flashing a wry smile, he added, "It's probably because I don't have a whole lot of speed."

Favorably impressed by his own unit, he says, "I think it's a pretty good line. I think the scheme helps a lot but there are good players on this line. I don't think it's just the scheme. They're all good players and they've all been doing a good job. We've gotten the run game going a little bit and that's only going to help — it makes the passing game a little easier."

Head Coach Mike Holmgren, it was noted, has said he feels the offense "is still a little sloppy...but can play well if we ever put it all together."

"When you look at films, you can see what he's talking about," Doug observed. "You'll see a blown assignment on one play or poor technique on another that kills a drive.

Team has talent, ability to score

"This offense is capable of scoring a lot. If we play a perfect game, you'll see that. We stopped ourselves a lot in this last game (against the Lions)."

Essaying a comparison of this offense to the one he left behind in Denver, Doug said, "I'd say there are more offensive threats on this team than there were there...Denver kind of does win or lose on John Elway's shoulders. They have receivers who can get open, particularly Shannon Sharpe. (But) here, Sterling Sharpe is one of the best in the league. And Darrell (Thompson) has been running strong, and Edgar (Bennett) gets in the end zone.

"There's a lot of talent on this team. Brett (quarterback Brett Favre) being so young, he's just going to keep getting better...I think there's more talent on this team."

Widell, who went to a Super Bowl

Continued on page 14

Patterson works to return

Heart, mind expect his body on the field

by Al Pahl
Managing Editor

Shawn Patterson's heart and mind expect his body will be on the football field next year.

All three elements of his persona are working diligently toward that goal.

That much is within the control of the single-minded Patterson, who works to the max only on things which he can control. What's beyond the sphere of his direct action is whether a team will offer a job to the oft-injured defensive end.

His contract expires in February. He will turn 30 June 13. He is currently rehabilitating his left knee from its second anterior cruciate reconstruction. His right knee was reconstructed in August, 1992. He spent last season on injured reserve.

Hamstring problems (1990) and a sprained medial collaterial ligament in his right knee (1991) forced him to miss five games each of those years.

This is the second-straight season and third in the last five that he will have spent more games on IR than active. In six NFL seasons, Patterson has played in half of the possible games, 48 of 96.

Why keep on keepin' on?

And while the intelligent young man acknowledges all the foregoing as fact, his forward-looking nature would undoubtedly label the last three paragraphs as "negativism" and he would continue rehabilitation, fixed on his goal of playing again.

Why?

"I like playin' football," he says. "What keeps you going? It's pretty simple if you love doing something — it keeps you going."

Understand this: It's not like the bright, articulate Patterson couldn't do something else. This guy is *not* stupid. But he doesn't *want* to do anything else.

"This (football) is going to be a short time in my life," Patterson says. "And whenever it's going to be over, it's going to be over. Nobody can say when that is going to come, but it's going to come for all of us. And I don't want to prematurely cut off this short time in my life. I want to play as long as I can and as hard as I can. And when my time is over, fine, I'll go on and do my other thing. But if you love playing, why cut it short?"

Um, gee, perhaps to insure you can walk normally 10 years from now?

"Well at this point, the damage has already been done," Patterson noted. "It's part of this business. Things of that nature are part of the business. If a player was concerned about that or that was a priority of theirs, then they would not have gotten into this to begin with."

Playing today, unworried about tomorrow

Patterson said it doesn't concern him today whether 20 years from now there's a related problem. "No it doesn't," he assured. "If that happens, you deal with it when it comes along. I don't know of any player in the league right now that's worried about what's going to happen 20 years down the road as far as their physical capabilities."

(This writer has discussed exactly that with Brian Noble and Rich Moran, both of whom injured a knee this season.)

Still, there's something to be said for the focus and commitment of a guy like Shawn. He addresses the question of his football employability — something he cannot control — this way: "Like I said, it's going to end for everybody. If it ends for me this year, I thank the Lord he's given me six years.

"The way I look at it: I'm going to try to play. If nobody's willing to give me a job, I'll go find one in the private sector.

"That's what happens to everybody," he pointed out. "I'm no different than anybody. When it ends, if it's this year or two years or five years, I'll continue on."

This guy is no hack

And understand this: Patterson is not some hack trying to hang on. He started the first three games of this season at right end and played in the first six before the patella tendon in his left knee gave out when he was running at practice the week before the Tampa trip. (Dr. Patrick McKenzie then performed an anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction, according to Patterson. The operation centered on the patella tendon, which some observers say didn't attach properly when the ACL surgery was performed by a different doctor four years ago.)

Defensive end Shawn Patterson is rehabilitating following his third knee reconstruction and intends to return to resume his playing career in 1994.
— David J. Garot photo

He's got 12 career sacks in 48 games, an average of .25 sacks per game. Matt Brock's career average is .19.

Patterson, who is walking well now, has found time lately to do a little deer hunting during Wisconsin's gun season. "I'm trying to get out and relieve a little tension, " he said. "I'm trying to blow off a little steam. When you have a little extra time, to go sit in the woods is nice."

Sitting during Packer games is tough. "The real hard time is game day," Patterson agreed. "Every Sunday, when that comes along, that's a real hard day."

Wife envious of tolerance for pain

Patterson's focus is the two or three hours, five days a week, he invests rehabilitating his knee at the Packer complex.

"I go in and try to do a little bit more than you did before and try to build up your strength," he explained. "It's pretty much routine as far as doing that. After going through it three times, I guess I've got it down pretty good."

"He does," said Jackie, his wife of nine months. "He's really working hard.

"He's just got such a great tolerance for pain. I think he just works through it and fights through it. I keep telling him he should be the one who's doing this labor thing. He'd breeze through it."

Jackie's reference is to their first child, due in January. "I keep saying this baby couldn't be coming at a more wonderful time," she said. "You try to keep in perspective that this (football) isn't the most important thing and Shawn keeps saying, 'Gosh, I'm not dying. I don't have cancer. This is just something else I have to work through.' He has a wonderful personality and outlook on this.

"I think this is going to catch up with him. The last couple of weeks, he's been real down and he's like, 'I just want to be out there. I just want to be part of it.' I knew he was going to hit this wall sooner or later, where his positive attitude just wasn't going to keep up. He's just frustrated with it that it has happened again. But he doesn't want to question why it's happened, he just wants to get through this first couple of months and get into the lifting and everything else. There's just a limited amount he can do right now."

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Family Spotlight

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Bryan Jeffrey Wagner

Sixth-year punter.

Born • March 28, 1962 in Escondido, Calif.

College - Physical therapy major, Cal. State Northridge.

Family - Wife Robin, son Matthew, Age: 21 months.

The last book I read was - "The Hidden Value of a Man" by Trent Chapman.

A movie I'd recommend to my friends is - Caddyshack.

My favorite hobbies are - Golf, yard work.

The things I like about football are - The week-to-week challenge of performing, the realization of my childhood dream and the fact that I don't have to wear a suit.

The things I like best to do with my family are - Go on walks, bike rides, drives, watch Winnie the Pooh videos.

I would describe my wife as - An intelligent, charming, caring girl whose outer beauty is equal to her inner beauty. Robin is a perfect complement to me and a wonderful mother to Matthew.

I would describe myself as - An ordinary guy who has been blessed by God with a great family, the ability to kick a football and the opportunity to kick. I am far from perfect, but striving to be the best husband, father and punter I can be.

My favorite piece of advice to give people is - Say what you mean, mean what you say, don't jump to quick conclusions.

The most influential people in my life are - My parents, Robin, Jesus Christ.

My greatest personal accomplishment outside of football - My marriage with Robin, the birth of Matthew.

If I could live in another time, it would be - The Old West. Miles and miles of unexplored land, living in some log cabin, horses, six-shooters, finding your own food. You know — just like a made-for-T.V. western.

Like many other Packer players who have appeared in this column, if you gave Bryan Wagner the opportunity to live in another time period, he'd prefer the Old West.

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Victory

Continued from page 3

ing Tampa a first down at the Packer 38.

Erickson, held to 12-of-35 for 144 yards and sacked three times, hit Hawkins for a 19-yard gain to the 19. Fullback Rudy Harris gained eight yards and Workman added two more yards for another first down at the 9.

On first down, Erickson faked to Workman right and rolled right. Safety LeRoy Butler took several steps toward Workman. That allowed Hawkins to find an opening between Butler and Johnny Holland in the end zone for a nine-yard touchdown with 7:33 left and giving Tampa the lead.

"We saw the fake coming and we dropped back into our coverages," said Holland, who led the team with nine tackles. "It was kind of hard to get to your guy."

Neither team was able to muster much offense the first three quarters. Green Bay's Bryan Wagner punted nine times and Bucs' punter Dan Stryzinski, 10.

"We didn't move the ball all day, but I give credit to Tampa," Favre said. "The bottom line is we did it when we had to."

Poorly-ranked Buc 'D' passes this test

It was a disappointing performance by the offense against a Tampa defense ranked 25th against the pass and 28th against the run in the NFL.

The teams went a combined nine consecutive possessions without gaining a first down in the first and second quarters. For the game, the Bucs had eight possessions without moving the chains and Green Bay had seven.

During three separate possessions, the Packers started on Tampa's 40, 42 and the Green Bay 46 without gaining a first down. In addition, the home team had seven penalties for 55 yards.

The Packers did control the football, holding it for 36:02. Tampa had 207 yards, averaged only 3.0 yards per pass play, was 3-of-15 on third down and 0-for-1 on fourth down.

Green Bay scored on its final possession of the first half after a 20-yard punt return by Robert Brooks to the Bucs' 45. Bennett caught a 12-yard pass from Favre on first play and later gained three yards to the 9 on a fourth-down play.

The drive stalled at the 6 and Chris Jacke booted a 24-yard field goal with 1:08 left in the half to give the Packers a 3-0 lead.

Tampa used a 40-yard pass from Erickson to Hawkins to set up a 30-yard field goal by Michael Husted to tie the score, 3-3, with 12:26 left in the third quarter.

Paup returns to tie for sack lead

The Packers' defense set up Jacke's second field goal. Tampa started its second drive of the third quarter on its 20, but had three false-start penalties push the ball back to the 4.

Stryzinski's 33-yard punt was returned six yards by Brooks to the 31 and Tampa was penalized five yards for a facemask penalty on the play, moving the ball to the 26.

Green Bay was unable to gain a first down, but Jacke made a 36-yard field goal to give the Packers a 6-3 lead with 4:39 left in the quarter.

The second field goal gave Jacke 25 this year, tying him with Chester Marcol for most three-pointers in a season. He has made 25 of 27 attempts this season, including all 18 inside 40 yards.

Bryce Paup, who missed the Detroit game Nov. 21 with a groin injury, returned and had two sacks to tie White for the team lead with 10 1/2 on the season. White said there would not be a sack competition with his teammate: "Don't make no difference as long as somebody's making the plays," White said. "We want to win. That's what it boils down to."

In 18 seasons, Tampa is 0-14 in contests when the game-time temperature was less than 40 degrees. Game-time temperature was 29 degrees here.

Veterans

Continued from page 5

pride in the offense. We knew we had to put some points on the board and we came through."

Mistakes, followed quickly by big plays

The most interesting aspect of that drive to me was the fact West and Clayton made huge receptions on it, relatively soon after making miscues.

West dropped a pass on the second play of the drive, but came back on the very next play to produce an 11-yard reception on third-and-10 for the first first down of the march. Five plays later, a catchable pass went off West's hands and three plays after that, Clayton couldn't hang onto a catchable ball. But just one snap later, Clayton came up with a huge 28-yard catch-and-run which set the Packers up with a first down at the Buc 17. And on the first play there, West made a nine-yard catch.

What's interesting is how quickly those two guys came back from mistakes to make big plays. "In this business, you hope for that second or third chance," West explained. "When things are not going right for you and you make a mistake or drop a ball, you hope you can come up with a key play.

"Today it happened. I just thank the Lord for giving me the opportunity to make something good happen for us."

So, you'd rather be thrown the ball on the very next play? "Without a doubt," he replied.

It might be even tougher, one would think, for Clayton, who doesn't get the ball thrown his way as often as he used to in Miami. "It's kind of tough but we are all professionals and we know we just have to be ready, regardless, whenever the time comes for you to make a play," he said. "A lot of guys stood up tall on that last drive. They were just making plays all over the place."

As for himself, Clayton explained, "You have to stay mentally focused regardless of what happened earlier in the game. But at any point in time, you never know. You just have to stay mentally sharp, be prepared and always be ready."

Troubles preceded triumph

Of course, the fact the Packers scored an exciting come-from-behind victory necessarily means they fell behind at some point.

Just why did they have so much trouble moving the ball for so long?

"I think you first of all have to give credit to Tampa," Holmgren said. "They came in here and played a great defensive game. Secondly, we had way too many penalties; holding penalties and things that would stall a drive or hurt us. But more than anything, Tampa just played a good game."

Was his team uninspired? "I wouldn't say that," Holmgren replied. "We played a great defensive game. Our kicking game was pretty solid. We just couldn't generate much offense."

Said Clayton, "They (Bucs) came out and played outstanding defense. They were geared up from the start of the game. Really, I thought we were a little flat until our backs were up against the wall and we knew that we had to have it. Then we showed, really, the character this team is made of. We knew we couldn't let this game slip away from us.

"I think we were ready to play but we never really took control of the game. There were a lot of times today that our defense really played their butts off and really keep the game close for us."

Dropped passes were a factor in both offenses' ineffectiveness. "I wouldn't think it was lack of concentration," Holmgren said. "Perhaps the elements factored into it, I don't know. I don't ever think we should drop any passes. We had too many. I don't know about Tampa. But I know we had too many — and on balls I thought we should have caught. That just added to our little bit of inefficiency on offense."

Tied for first place

And now the Packers are tied for the Division lead. "Finally," said White. "We are going to win this game next week (at Chicago) and...we pretty much control our own destiny."

Does the mentality change when you are on top? "Yes it does," said Clayton. "I think it's good when you are already on top and people are trying to shoot at you, as opposed to struggling and climbing up a ladder — then you have to really depend on other people losing for you. Now we're up there and everything really depends on us. We know if we come out and play the kind of game we are capable of, we're going to be hard to reckon with."

Widell knows the feeling from Denver. "It means a lot," he said. "Everybody is going to be gunning for you now. Sometimes it makes it harder — but if you are going to be a championship team, that's where you are going to have to be."

The last word

This week's last word again comes from Rev. White. One of the reasons he chose Green Bay was to get a shot at the Super Bowl. How's that feeling now?

"It's starting to feel a lot better," he replied. "Like I said, at the end of the year you usually get better and better. We are going to win this one next week and put ourselves in great position."

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53 Koonce
56 Willis

LOLB
54 Coleman
53 Koonce
59 Simmons (inj.)

RE
62 Brock
98 Grant

NT
64 Jurkovic
77 Maas
71 Brown

LE
92 White
99 Davey

WR
87 Waddle
83 Obee

LT
70 Auzenne
71 Williams

LG
62 Bortz
75 Perry

C
67 Fontenot
58 Leeuwenburg
60 McGuire

RG
73 Wojciechowski
75 Perry

RT
58 Leeuwenburg
78 Van Horne
71 Williams

TE
85 Jennings
84 Gedney
89 Wetnight

QB
4 Harbaugh
10 Willis
9 Matthews

WR
80 Conway
81 Banks

RB
35 Anderson
38 Worley
22 Green

RB
45 Heyward
44 Christian

Bear 'D' covers its offense's tail

NEXT WEEK'S OPPONENT

Nutritionists call it "trimming fat," but new Bears' Head Coach Dave Wannstedt has a simpler term. He "cleans house."

Since arriving last off-season, Wannstedt has replaced 23 members of his 53-man. Some 15 of the newcomers possess three years or less experience.

At the midway point of the regular season the early resuts were predictable. They were 3-5, yet four of the losses were by seven points or less. They lost their first two games, won the next three, and dropped their last three in that stretch.

The young Bears could have easily gone into hibernation. However, to Wannstedt's and his club's credit, they pulled off two huge road wins at San Diego and Kansas City to reach the .500 mark prior to last week's Thanksgiving-Day encounter in Detroit.

Regardless of the outcome of the season, Wannstedt has laid groundwork for the future earlier than expected for what was a troubled team when he was hired.

With their recent successes the Bears have propelled themselves back into the Central Division picture, particularly if they managed to trip up Detroit last week.

So what looked like just another game in the storied Bear-Packer rivalry could take on new meaning when the Pack travels to Soldier Field Sunday for the 146th battle in a series the Bears lead, 80-59-6.

Green Bay recorded seven sacks on Halloween weekend to trip the Bears, 17-3, in a defensive struggle that wasn't decided until a late Packer touchdown.

No. 27 offense averages 16.1 points

Since the Packer loss, the Bears have simplified their line schemes and made adjustments to attempt to prevent sacks.

The Bears gained 281 yards against a stingy Chief defense two weeks ago.

Through 10 games, Chicago was ranked 27th overall offensively in the 28-team NFL Nov. 23. The Bears were 12th-best at rushing but dead last in passing.

Point production is the Bears' problem area. Through 10 games they had tallied only 161 (avg. 16.1), but 47 of them came against Tampa Bay early in the season, so that's an average of 12.6 in the other nine

JIM BURGESS

games (through 10 games, the Packers had 225 points for an average of 22.5).

In an effort to give nine-year vet Neal Anderson some assistance the Bears obtained huge fullback Craig "Ironhead" Heyward from New Orleans in the off-season and added Tim Worley from Pittsburgh just prior to the Packer game.

Heyward gives the backfield a blocking dimension and Worley, who has 92 yards on 22 carries the last two weeks, gives the club a back who can compliment Anderson, if not eventually replace him.

Despite the fact Anderson is getting an "aging" rap he still leads the club with a respectable 527 yards on 167 carries.

Beleagured quarterback Jim Harbaugh is managing to have a fairly good year despite heavy fan and media criticism. He had thrown for 1,488 yards through 10 games on 147-of-238 completions. Harbaugh also adds a running dimension as evidenced by the fact he leads league QBs with 252 yards on 45 carries.

Harbaugh's favorite targets are wide receiver Tommy Waddle and Anderson out of the backfield. Wannstedt has high hopes for top picks, USC's Curtis Conway and Oregon's Terry Obee. The tight end, Keith Jennings, is in his fourth-year.

The starting line consists of, from left to right, Troy Auzenne, Mark Bortz, Jerry Fontenot, John Wojciechowski, and Jay Leeuwenburg.

No. 5 Bears allow 14.1 points

Chicago's defense has been awesome enough to be compared favorably with the "Monsters of the Midway" tradition. It has moved up to fifth place in the NFL and has made improvements each week, allowing an average of only 14.1 points per game (Green Bay allowed 17.8 through 10 games).

Just when many critics were writing off right defensive end Richard Dent, the 11-year vet has rebounded from a sub-par 1992 to lead the club with 9.5 sacks.

The Bears had enough defensive depth to release William the "Refrigerator" Perry since the last Packer meeting. Trace Armstrong flanks Dent, while Steve McMichael and youngster Chris Zorich open inside.

Baylor rookie Albert Fontenot has played well enough to replace McMichael on passing downs, and the Bears can go deeper with the likes of Tim Ryan, Alonzo Spellman, Carl Simpson, and recent San Diego acquisition Tory Epps.

Dante Jones has done a great job of replacing the legendary Mike Singletary and leads the club in tackles from his middle linebacker slot. Flanking Jones are veterans Vinson Smith and Joe Cain.

After back-to-back Pro Bowl years, free safety Mark Carrier suffered a wrist injury that hampered him last year. He has rebounded to lead Chicago with three interceptions and also is a hard-hitter who makes men crossing the middle pay for it.

Rounding out a secondary that benefits from the strength up front is strong safety Shaun Gayle and cornerbacks Donnell Woolford and youngster Jeremy Lincoln, who has been spelling Anthony Blaylock.

Don't bet against Kevin Butler

Despite missing two crucial three-pointers against the Raiders, Kevin Butler has connected on 19-of-23 field goals. He has tallied 71 points.

Punter Chris Gardocki carries only a 38.7 yard average, but has pinned opponents inside their 20-yard line 20 times.

Speedy rookies Conway and Obee are the return specialists with the former carrying a 21.8 average on kick returns and the latter running back punts at a 8.7-yard clip.

Packers

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	College	How Acquired
4	Brett Favre	QB	6-2	218	23	3	Southern Mississippi	T-92 (Atl)
8	Mark Brunell	QB	6-1	208	22	R	Washington	D5a-93
9	Bryan Wagner	P	6-2	200	31	7	Cal State-Northridge	FA-92
11	Ty Detmer	QB	6-0	190	25	1	Brigham Young	D9a-92
13	Chris Jacke	K	6-0	200	27	5	Texas-El Paso	D6-89
20	Kevin Williams	RB	6-1	215	23	R	UCLA	FA-93 (Den)
23	Sammy Walker	CB	5-11	203	24	2	Texas Tech	FA-93
24	Tim Hauck	S	5-11	185	26	4	Montana	PB-91 (NE)
27	Terrell Buckley	CB	5-9	174	21	2	Florida State	D1-92
29	Marcus Wilson	RB	6-1	210	25	2	Virginia	FA-92
30	Corey Harris	DB	5-11	195	23	2	Vanderbilt	W-92 (Hou)
31	George Teague	DB	6-1	187	22	R	Alabama	D1b-93
33	Doug Evans	DB	6-1	188	22	R	Louisiana Tech	D6a-93
34	Edgar Bennett	RB	6-0	216	24	2	Florida State	D4-92
36	LeRoy Butler	S	6-0	205	24	4	Florida State	D2-90
38	Bruce Pickens	CB	5-11	190	25	3	Nebraska	T-93 (Atl)
39	Darrell Thompson	RB	6-1	217	25	4	Minnesota	D1b-90
44	Dexter McNabb	FB	6-2	245	23	2	Florida	D5a-92
45	Mike Prior	S	6-0	215	29	8	Illinois State	UFA-93 (Ind)
47	Roland Mitchell	CB	5-11	195	29	7	Texas Tech	PB-91 (Atl)
50	Johnny Holland	LB	6-3	235	28	7	Texas A&M	D2-87
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	225	30	9	Michigan State	FA-93
52	Frank Winters	C/G	6-3	285	29	7	Western Illinois	PB-92 (KC)
53	George Koonce	LB	6-1	238	24	2	East Carolina	FA-92
54	Keo Coleman	ILB	6-1	255	23	2	Mississippi State	FA-93
56	James Willis	LB	6-2	235	20	R	Auburn	D5b-93
59	Wayne Simmons	LB	6-3	240	23	R	Clemson	D1a-93
60	Lance Zeno	C/G	6-4	279	26	2	UCLA	FA-93
62	Matt Brock	DE	6-6	280	27	5	Oregon	D3a-89
64	John Jurkovic	NT	6-2	285	25	3	Eastern Illinois	FA-91
67	Paul Hutchins	T	6-5	335	27	R	Western Michigan	FA-93 (D-6b 93)
68	Joe Sims	T/G	6-3	310	24	3	Nebraska	FA-92
71	Gilbert Brown	DE	6-2	330	22	R	Kansas	W-93 (Min)
72	Earl Dotson	T	6-4	315	22	R	Texas A&I	D3-93
73	Tootie Robbins	T	6-5	315	35	12	East Carolina	FA-93
74	Doug Widell	G	6-4	280	26	5	Boston College	T-93 (Den)
75	Ken Ruettgers	T	6-6	290	30	9	Southern California	D1-85
76	Harry Galbreath	G	6-1	275	28	6	Tennessee	UFA-93 (Mia)
77	Bill Maas	NT	6-5	282	31	10	Pittsburgh	UFA-93 (KC)
80	Jackie Harris	TE	6-4	243	25	4	Northeast Louisiana	D4-90
81	Anthony Morgan	WR	6-1	195	26	3	Tennessee	FA-93
83	Mark Clayton	WR	5-9	185	32	11	Louisville	UFA-93 (Mia)
84	Sterling Sharpe	WR	6-1	210	28	6	South Carolina	D1-88
85	Ron Lewis	WR	5-11	189	25	3	Florida State	FA-93
86	Ed West	TE	6-1	245	31	10	Auburn	FA-84
87	Robert Brooks	WR	6-0	174	22	2	South Carolina	D3-92
88	Darryl Ingram	TE	6-3	245	27	3	California	FA-93
89	Mark Chmura	TE	6-5	242	24	1	Boston College	D6-92
90	Tony Bennett	LB	6-2	243	25	4	Mississippi	D1a-90
92	Reggie White	DE	6-5	290	31	9	Tennessee	UFA-93 (Phil)
95	Bryce Paup	LB	6-5	247	25	4	Northern Iowa	D6-90
98	David Grant	NT	6-4	275	27	5	West Virginia	FA-93
99	Don Davey	DE	6-4	270	25	3	Wisconsin	FA-92 (D3a-91)

Injured Reserve (out for season):
James Milling, WR (post concussion syndrome); **Tom Neville** G/C (Achilles); **Brian Noble** LB, (knee); **James Campen,** C (hamstring); **Shawn Patterson** DE (knee); **Rich Moran** G (knee)

Reserve/physically unable to perform:
Aug. 23: **Mark D'Onofrio,** LB (groin)

Reserve/Military (lost for season)
Aug. 23: **Bob Kuberski,** DL (Navy)

Practice squad:

17	Craig Hentrich	P/K	6-3	200	22	R	Notre Dame	FA-93
26	Lionell Crawford	WR	5-10	185	23	R	Wisconsin	FA-93
40	Jason McGill	WR	5-11	195	23	R	Georgia Tech	FA-93
69	Malcom Showell	DE	6-6	275	21	1	Delaware State	FA-93
65	Terry Beauford	G	6-2	280	25	2	Florida A & M	FA-93

Bears

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age*	Yr.	College
4	Jim Harbaugh	QB	6-3	215	30	7	Michigan
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	190	30	9	Georgia
9	Shane Matthews	QB	6-3	192	23	R	Florida
10	Peter Tom Willis	QB	6-2	204	26	4	Florida State
17	Chris Gardocki	P/K	6-1	196	23	3	Clemson
20	Mark Carrier	S	6-1	192	25	4	USC
21	Donnell Woolford	CB	5-9	185	27	5	Clemson
22	Robert Green	RB	5-8	207	22	2	William & Mary
23	Shaun Gayle	S	5-11	202	31	10	Ohio State
24	Kevin Miniefield	CB	5-9	178	23	R	Arizona State
25	Keshon Johnson	CB	5-10	177	23	R	Arizona
26	John Mangum	S	5-10	178	26	4	Alabama
35	Neal Anderson	RB	5-11	215	29	8	Florida
36	Markus Paul	S	6-2	200	27	5	Syracuse
37	Maurice Douglass	S	5-11	202	29	7	Kentucky
38	Tim Worley	RB	6-2	225	26	4	Georgia
39	Jeremy Lincoln	CB	5-10	184	24	2	Tennessee
44	Bob Christian	RB	5-10	225	26	1	Northwestern
45	Craig Heyward	FB	5-11	260	27	6	Pittsburgh
46	John Ivlow	FB	5-11	226	23	R	Colorado State
47	Anthony Blaylock	CB	5-10	185	28	6	Winston-Salem St.
53	Dante Jones	LB	6-1	238	28	6	Oklahoma
54	Ron Cox	LB	6-2	235	25	4	Fresno State
55	Vinson Smith	LB	6-2	236	28	7	East Carolina
58	Jay Leeuwenburg	OL	6-2	290	24	2	Colorado
59	Joe Cain	LB	6-1	233	28	5	Oregon Tech
60	Gene McGuire	C	6-2	284	23	2	Notre Dame
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	282	32	11	Iowa
65	Tory Epps	DT	6-1	280	26	4	Memphis State
67	Jerry Fontenot	G/C	6-3	287	27	5	Texas A & M
70	Troy Auzenne	T	6-7	290	24	2	California
71	James Williams	T	6-7	335	25	3	Cheyney St. (PA)
73	John Wojciechowski	G/T	6-4	280	30	7	Michigan State
74	Albert Fontenot	DL	6-4	260	23	R	Baylor
75	Todd Perry	T	6-5	291	23	R	Kentucky
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	268	36	14	Texas
78	Keith Van Horne	T	6-6	290	36	13	USC
80	Curtis Conway	WR	6-0	185	22	R	USC
81	Fred Banks	WR	5-10	185	31	8	Liberty
83	Terry Obee	WR	5-10	188	25	1	Oregon
84	Chris Gedney	TE	6-5	254	23	R	Syracuse
85	Keith Jennings	TE	6-4	260	27	4	Clemson
87	Tom Waddle	WR	6-0	185	26	4	Boston College
89	Ryan Wetnight	TE	6-2	225	22	R	Stanford
90	Alonzo Spellman	DE	6-4	282	22	2	Ohio State
91	Myron Baker	LB	6-1	221	22	R	Louisiana Tech
92	Barry Minter	LB	6-2	236	23	R	Tulsa
93	Trace Armstrong	DE	6-4	265	28	5	Florida
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	265	33	11	Tennessee State
96	Percy Snow	LB	6-2	250	25	4	Michigan State
97	Chris Zorich	DT	6-1	284	24	3	Notre Dame
98	Carl Simpson	DT	6-2	278	23	R	Florida State
99	Tim Ryan	DT	6-4	265	26	4	USC
	Practice Squad						
52	Jim Schwantz	LB	6-2	232	23	1	Purdue
63	Todd Burger	G	6-3	266	23	R	Penn State
88	Keenan McCardell	WR	6-1	175	23	1	UNLV
94	Frank Kmet	DL	6-3	289	23	1	Purdue
	Injured Reserve (out for year)						
82	Wendell Davis	WR	5-11	188	27	6	LSU
88	Glen Kozlowski	WR	6-1	210	31	8	BYU

*Age as of Jan. 1, 1994

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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO: Dick Wildung

War cut career of multiple Hall of Famer

by Jerry Poling

When Dick Wildung talks about the era when he played for the Packers, he summarizes it with a joke that he and a former teammate used to tell.

"We got rid of the only two coaches the Packers ever had," he says with a chuckle.

As a standout two-way lineman from 1946 through 1953, Wildung played for the Packers' first-ever coach, Curly Lambeau, before Lambeau left the Packers after the 1949 season. Then Wildung played under the Packers' second coach, Gene Ronzani, who led the team from 1950 to 1953.

"Bob Forte and I were the only ones left from Lambeau's teams. We were the only guys who played for the only two coaches the Packers ever had," he says. Both Wildung and Forte left after 1953, preserving their niche in Packer history.

WWII kept 2nd-round pick overseas

A recent telephone interview from the retiree's home in Bloomington, Minn. happened to take place on Veterans Day, which seemed appropriate because Wildung's participation in World War II delayed his pro football career by nearly four years.

He was the Packers' first-round draft pick out of the University of Minnesota in 1942, but he didn't put on a Packer uniform until the 1946 season.

"I played in the East-West game after the '42 season and the All-Star game in August. That was my last game until 1946," Wildung says.

Wildung, like many other athletes at that time, had joined a Naval officer training program in college that enabled him to finish his degree. He didn't begrudge serving when he graduated.

"The Packers thought they could keep me out through the '43 season, I thought, 'It's time to go in.' We had been in the war since Pearl Harbor in December, 1941. I felt like a sore thumb with the country being at war and not being in the service," says Wildung.

He worked aboard PT boats during the war. The lightly armed, fast boats were used to disrupt enemy supply routes, Wildung says. He saw action in the Philippines for one year.

After a standout pro football career, he went on to join the Packer Hall of Fame, getting inducted in 1973 with many other stars of the 1940s, including his close friend, Pro Hall of Fame running back Tony Canadeo; Forte, Ted Fritsch and Buford "Baby" Ray.

"It's been 40 years since I played. It's hard to believe," Wildung says.

Recently made Gopher Hall of Fame

Yet, 40 years after he last wore a football uniform, Wildung still is pulling down honors.

He was at the Metrodome in Minneapolis on Nov. 13 to be inducted into the University of Minnesota Athletic Hall of Fame at halftime of the Gopher-Michigan game. The native of Luverne in southwest Minnesota was an all-American who played for the Gophers' 1940 and '41 undefeated and national champions under Coach Bernie Bierman.

Wildung is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame, getting inducted there in 1957. He joined the Minnesota Hall after only its third year in existence.

At six-foot, 225 pounds, Wildung was the prototype strong, but quick tackle of the run-oriented college and pro game of the 1940s.

He played guard and tackle and defensive tackle for the Packers. He was one of the blockers in 1949 when Canadeo became the first Packer ever, and one of the first in the NFL, to crack 1,000 yards, rushing for 1,052.

The Packers were not successful in the late 1940s. They won their sixth NFL title in 1944, but after Don Hutson retired in 1945, the Packers went into a slide on and off the field that culminated with the departure of Lambeau after the 1949 season.

Wildung says he thought highly of Lambeau but noted that Lambeau didn't keep pace with the changes in the pro game.

'The game kind of passed Curly by'

"The game kind of passed Curly by. We still were playing the Notre Dame Box and everybody else was in the T-formation. The 'T' took over after World War II.

"The Notre Dame Box had a balanced line with guard, tackle and end on either side of the ball but it didn't spread the ends out. They played outside the tackle just about a yard. It was a direct snap to the tailback, like the single wing. The quarterback wasn't up under the center.

"It was inevitable where pro football was going," Wildung says.

The Packers were 6-5 in 1946 and '47 but fell to 3-9 in '48 and to 2-10 in '49. They also ran into financial difficulty, which helped lead to Lambeau's demise.

"I liked Curly. He was always good to me. I hated to see him go," Wildung says.

Some of the criticism levied at Lambeau was fiscal in nature, concerning his purchase of Rockwood Lodge, a training camp and practice facility near Green Bay. It turned out to be a fiasco when the Packers couldn't practice there because of the hard ground.

"It seemed like a hell of an idea. But there was not one foot of black dirt over the rock. It was tough on the players. Many of them got shin splits. I got shin splits and I never had them in my life," Wildung says.

Wildung's rookie year with the Packers, 1946, was the first year they practiced at Rockwood. "In 1947 we finally went to town to practice."

Continued on next page

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Widell

Continued from page 6

with the Broncos following the 1989 season and thus is qualified to make such judgments, has positive feelings about the Packers' playoff prospects.

"We've been winning lately and that tends to breed itself. You expect to win, and that's good. After those close losses early in the season, it was harder at the time for the team to say, 'We're going to win'...Now that they've been winning, the confidence is there. Confidence is a big thing in this league.

"I think it's all in our hands. We don't have to rely on anybody else losing some games or winning some games for us...it's all up to us...If we win some games, we'll be in the playoffs."

Reflecting upon his Super-Bowl experience with the Broncos, Doug confided, "That was fun, especially because we went my rookie year. I was naive enough not to realize how hard it was to get there. The next few years, I began to realize how hard it is to get there — how hard it is to get back to that game."

On the road, Packer fans dominate

Having now played before two of the NFL's most fervent fan groups — the enduring Packer faithful and Denver's rabid Bronco buffs — Widell is in a position to make a valid comparison.

"I think there are similarities," he said. "The fans here are really good fans, obviously. They have been good fans for a long time.

"In Denver, the last few years they had been getting a little negative — especially after the Super-Bowl loss in '90...Not that you would ever notice the difference because, the stadium was always loud.

"In that sense, they're similar. Like Denver fans, Packer fans have been very supportive of their team. The only difference, Denver has about 20,000 more seats, so there's a lot more noise.

"But when we're on the road, there are a lot more fans waiting for the Packers than were waiting for the Broncos."

DOUG WIDELL
Former Bronco moves in for Moran

As might be expected of a Boston College alumnus, Doug is taking considerable pride in his alma mater's recent 41-39 upset of then No. 1-ranked Notre Dame.

"I'm pretty sure that was the biggest win in school history," he said. "The Doug Flutie victory over Miami was a big one but this probably was a bigger one."

The conversation turned to Widell's off-field diversions, one of which was golf, according to the 1993 Broncos' media guide.

"I've gotten into sailing," Doug updated. "I've found it a lot more relaxing. Golf tended to frustrate me more than relax me. "Sailing also is something I can do with my wife and it's a lot more relaxing."

Speaking of his spouse, how might she be faring since "The Move?"

"She came out here a few days after the trade," he said, adding with the trace of a smile, "She's not really big on the cold, but she can handle it."

Especially, it appears safe to assume, if it should shortly be accompanied by a playoff game in Lambeau Field.

Wildung

Continued from last page

Wildung didn't play in the 1952 season. He had opened a hardware store in Redwood Falls, Minn., prior to that season with his brother-in-law. But his brother-in-law died and Wildung was forced to take care of the business.

He returned to play the 1953 season, mostly for financial reasons, before retiring for good and returning to Redwood Falls to operate the store until '59.

Players tended to retire earlier

He said that his NFL retirement age of 32 wasn't unusual. He was the oldest Packer on the team at the time.

"In those days you didn't play as long. Now with the money and the pension it's a year-round occupation. Then, you played five or six months, went home and worked," Wildung says.

Wildung worked 25 years in sales for Borchert-Ingersoll Inc., of Eagan, Minn., a seller of heavy equipment. He rose to the position of vice president of sales.

He retired early but then spent eight years selling automobiles in the Twin Cities before retiring for good several years ago.

He and his wife, who have four grown children, visit the Canadeos in Green Bay occasionally, and Wildung remains a Gopher, Viking and Packer fan.

Asked if he would like to play football in this era, he replied: "I don't know, but I'd sure play with the way they're paying them. I'm sure those young guys out there are having fun."

Wildung was pleased when several years ago the NFL Players Association granted a monthly pension to old-time NFL players who had been in the league about five years.

He believes that the pension equals about $60 per month for each season played.

"It was kind of a gift. I never expected it."

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Expansion ruminations

Packers' NFL fees: $50

The National Football League is in the throes of expanding to 30 teams.

The League reached No. 29 with the addition of the Charlotte Panthers a few weeks ago. No. 30 should emerge about Nov. 30.

So what has all this got to do with the Green Bay Packers? Other than President Bob Harlan casting a vote on behalf of Packerville, really not an aitch of a lot.

Expansion time in the NFL is merely brought up at this particular time because it gives us hayseed out in the sticks a chance to gloat a bit. Try this:

The Packers have held a franchise in the NFL for 73 years and it only cost fifty bucks. What did Charlotte pay? Try 140 million bucks. That's not counting losing half the TV revenue for a few years, plus a few million for miscellaneous.

The Packers won their way into the NFL by winning football games, especially back in the 1930s. They survived the trauma of World War II, went to the public for money in 1949-50, built a new stadium in 1957 and then stumbled onto Vince Lombardi.

They didn't do much winning in the 1970s and 1980s but kept it interesting and grew in other ways — like expanding the stadium, building luxury boxes and a flock of indoor theater-type seats. They outgrew Milwaukee County Stadium and now play four games there at a loss of well over a million bucks annually.

Now the Packers have a whole new football look, with Ron Wolf digging up the players and Mike Holmgren coaching them into winners. The team is plain youthful but very interesting.

Movers may envy Green Bay

Green Bay's organization could be the envy of at least half the teams in the NFL. This was brought home to me over the last few weeks when rumors floated around that the Rams, Buccaneers, Patriots, Bengals and one or two others were considering moving to another city.

The Rams leave Los Angeles or Anaheim? The people bidding for a franchise in Baltimore are supposedly trying to snare them. The name of the game these days is winning and you'll notice all of the mentioned teams are losers, thus breeding poor attendance.

Think about the Pack's lucrative home stadium and then listen to Bengal GM Mike Brown:

"We have no luxury boxes. We have no club seats. We have no advertising. No parking. And we have one of the highest stadium expenses in the league, close to $2.5 million a year.

"I don't enjoy doing this, but we've put them (Cincinnati city council) on notice that if something can't be done we're going to have to do something."

"Doing something" could very well mean moving elsewhere. As Brown put it: "Times have changed. Under the old system we could have operated indefinitely, but once they pulled the rug out from under us with free agency, it was different. You can't have free agency for players unless you have free agency for teams."

If Brewers leave, Packers will follow

While it is easy to say the Packers stayed in the NFL by winning, it must not be forgotten that Green Bay benefits by the equal distribution of television money — for more than 25 years. The Packers

ART DALEY

would get hurt (though they have a full stadium of fans) with an uneven distribution of TV money but so would at least 10 or 12 other clubs with limited markets.

This, of course, is a baseball problem and one of the clubs getting hurt is Milwaukee's Brewers. And the Packers have an interest there because if the Brewers folded or left the Pack could play all of their games in Green Bay, thus adding to their income by well over $1 million.

The Packers, of course, are no strangers to expansion. They had a hand in the birth of six franchises — the Cowboys in 1960, Vikings 1961, Falcons 1966, Saints 1967, Buccaneers 1976 and Seahawks 1976. The Packers "contributed" players to the rosters of those teams. The Dolphins and Bengals were also added but they were part of the AFL expansion.

The Packers really got involved in the opening fortunes of the newly-born Cowboys and Vikings.

Ray had big day in Big D

The Packers helped the Cowboys and Tom Landry inaugurate their season with a visit on Nov. 13. Green Bay showed no mercy, rolling up a 41-0 lead before quarterback Don Meredith, then a rookie, moved his team 71 yards to a TD. Linebacker Ray Nitschke intercepted two passes that day and ran one back 43 yards for a TD.

Now it was the Vikings' turn and it was rather unkind. Can you imagine, the NFL scheduled the Packers and Vikings back-to-back in mid-season? The Packers visited Minnesota Oct. 22 and on Oct. 29 the two teams had a rematch in Milwaukee. Can't recall that happening before nor since.

The game in Minnesota was the Pack's first look at a rookie named Fran Tarkenton, who was to become a Hall of Famer. On the Pack's first play of the game Bart Starr hooked up on a 79-yard TD pass to Boyd Dowler and the Pack won, 33-7. It was closer, 28-10, in the second game but on the opening kickoff Jerry Kramer injured a leg that knocked him out for the season.

The Falcons, then coached by former Packer assistant Norb Hecker, found themselves on the Packer schedule in their first year and the Pack rolled, 56-3, in Milwaukee. Vince Lombardi didn't relish running up the score but it got into the 50s when Doug Hart ran an interception back 40 yards for a TD in the final seconds. Earlier Herb Adderley returned an interception 68 yards for a TD.

Dolphins remain undefeated

The Packers beat the Saints, 29-7; the Buccaneers, 13-0; the Seahawks, 27-20; and the Bengals, 20-17 in their debuts vs. Green Bay.

The one "expansion" team that Green Bay has never beaten is Miami. The Packers didn't play the Dolphins until they'd been in the NFL five years but Don Shula's men had no trouble, winning, 27-6, in Miami in 1971. The Dolphins and Packers have played six games since and the Shulas won all. They last met in Miami in 1991 and it was a tough loss. The Packers were close to victory until QB Don Majkowski dropped the ball in the end zone and Miami recovered for a 16-13 win.

Just maybe, the Packers might end Miami's winning skein in 1994, because the NFC Central Division is scheduled to play the AFC Eastern Division. To make up for all the stifling weather abuse Miami offers, let's play the Fish in Green Bay in mid-December.

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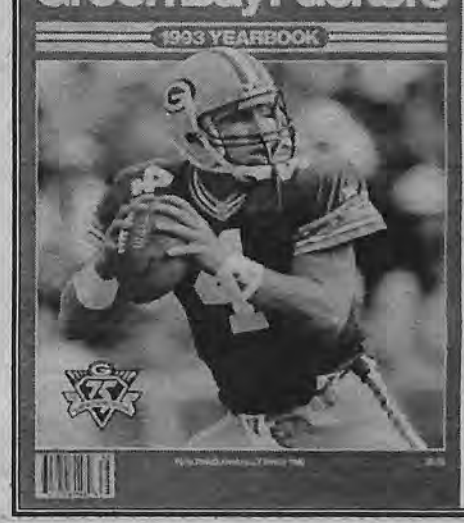

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PACKER NOTES

Holmgren's done well

Here are some statistics printed recently in the *Green Bay Press-Gazette* which fans should find interesting:

When Mike Holmgren sat down to dinner on Thanksgiving Day, he was 15-11 (and undefeated in Milwaukee).

Compare that to the first 26 games of some other "name" coaches:

- ❒ 4-22 Jimmy Johnson, Dallas, '89-90
- ❒ 5-21 Bill Walsh, 49ers, '79-80
- ❒ 6-20 Chuck Noll, Steelers, '69-70
- ❒ 9-16-1 Bill Parcells, Giants, '83-84
- ❒ 9-14-3 Bud Grant, Viking, '67-68
- ❒ 12-14 Mike Ditka, Bears, '82-84
- ❒ 13-13 Dan Reeves, Broncos, '81-83
- ❒ 13-13 Marv Levy, Bills, '85-86
- ❒ **15-11 Mike Holmgren, Packers, '92-93**
- ❒ 16-10 Joe Gibbs, Redskins, '81-83
- ❒ 19-6-1 Don Shula, Miami, '70-71

For the record, **Vincent Thomas Lombardi** was 16-10 in his first 26 games as head coach here, 1959-61.

The Packers were defeated, 45-6, by the Rams in the first game Lombardi coached in Milwaukee. He was undefeated (4-0) in Green Bay in his first season. But the first game of the 1960 season was a 17-14 loss to the Bears in Green Bay.

America's Pack sets parties in San Diego

The America's Pack pre-game tailgate party in San Diego is open only to fans who purchase tickets in advance.

Because of local situations, America's Pack must have the event catered and therefore must know in advance how many fans will attend. The party will be 3-5 p.m. in Lot N-3 of Jack Murphy Stadium. Game time is 5 p.m.

Tickets are $12 per person and include beer, brats mit fixins, soda and a live d.j. Members will receive a gift when they present their membership card and party ticket at the event.

The advance-sales line for San Diego pre-game tailgate tickets is (800) 774-PACK.

America's Pack is also planning a get-together Saturday night at the Red Lion Hotel, 7450 Hazard Center Dr., about 10 minutes from Jack Murphy Stadium in the Mission Valley area. The party is 5-7 p.m. in the Club Max, featuring drink specials and a free buffet.

Playoff tickets planned

For the second straight season, the Packers are printing playoff tickets.

Invoices will be going out to Lambeau Field and County Stadium season ticket holders. Those who want tickets will be required to send in payment for both a playoff game and championship game by Dec. 15.

Lambeau customers will receive priority on tickets. Once those requests have been satisfied, County Stadium customers will get priority. If any tickets remain, those will go on sale to the general public.

The NFL sets prices for both games. For the playoff game, they will be: $34 end zone; $38 sidelines; $44 private box and $90 club seat. For the championship, mark it up to: $47, $50, $57 and $100.

Jurko, Favre please Wolf

General Manager Ron Wolf would draft a running back if the draft were tomorrow, is pleased with the play of Brett Favre and John Jurkovic and looking for more from Terrell Buckley.

Those comments and others appeared in an interview with Wolf printed Nov. 26 in the *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

After agreeing the run game is an area of "critical concern," and allowing it would be difficult to address that through free agency because of salary cap considerations, Wolf said he'd like to be able to draft offense with his No. 1 pick in April. "Right now, it would be a running back," he said.

Calling Favre the "best quarterback in our division," the general manager said, "I'm pleased with how he's progressed. He's probably wrestling with some things, maybe like the contract thing hanging over his head, that may or may not be a factor in sometimes the way he's playing. But no, I couldn't be happier."

Addressing last year's No. 1 pick, Wolf said, "Terrell to me plays much better on grass than on turf. It's time for him to make a statement. He did that Sunday (against Detroit). He's got to keep doing that."

And of Jurkovic, Wolf said, "To me, the most pleasant surprise this year has been the play of John Jurkovic...He's just played superb. It's a tribute to John, that he came here and worked himself into such a form and fashion. First of all, he's a good athlete. He looks like a guy you pick up off the street to come in and play, but he's a very good athlete."

Sharpe impresses Wyche, Holmgren

As strange as it may sound, Buccaneer head Coach Sam Wyche believes Sharpe doesn't get as much credit as he deserves — an opinion Holmgren shares.

"I think he's just a great player," Wyche said Nov. 24. "We give him credit. I think sometimes — especially in team sports, as opposed to tennis or golf or some individual sports where the victor is congratulated for playing well — in team sports when somebody loses or somebody plays well against you, people want to know who is wrong, who's at fault, who's to blame — rather than giving credit to the guy who achieves. He's a great player and he had a tremendous game that day (Oc t. 24)."

Holmgren agreed. "I think that's right on. Sterling had a fine game. And often times, it didn't matter who was over there (defending). It wouldn't matter if he makes a great play.

"There wasn't anything wrong with Tampa's scheme. You have a great player making a great play."

Sharpe has had a lingering Achilles problem much of the season. He suffered blurred vision during parts of the Nov. 14 game and has been playing the last several games with a toe injury suffered Nov. 8.

"He is a gamer," Holmgren said. "He is a tough man. When you talk about toughness in football, the first thing that pops into your mind is not a wide receiver, frankly. You talk about linebackers or linemen. But when you talk about toughness, he is as tough a guy as I've been around. He has played with pain the last couple of weeks — but he will play. He'll battle through that."

Train trip canceled

The last edition of *Packer Report* carried a full page centered around a train trip to Chicago Dec. 4-5 for the Bear game.

The trip was canceled the day after we printed.

With 50 of a possible 200 $489 tickets sold, the excursion operator canceled the trip Nov. 23 because that was the day he was to have a $10,000 deposit turned in to the Bismarck Hotel in Chicago.

Running the trip with so few tickets sold would have resulted in a loss of $40,000, said Ralph Justen, president of Great Lakes Western. He said he had already spent between $12,000 and $14,000 in advertising.

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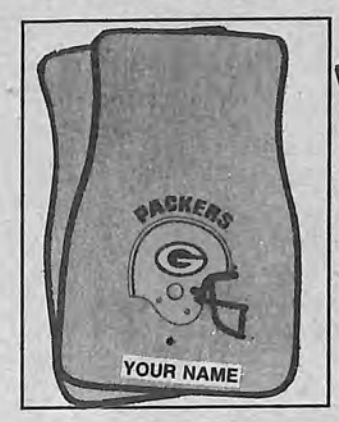

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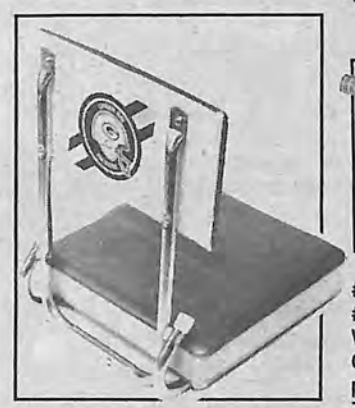

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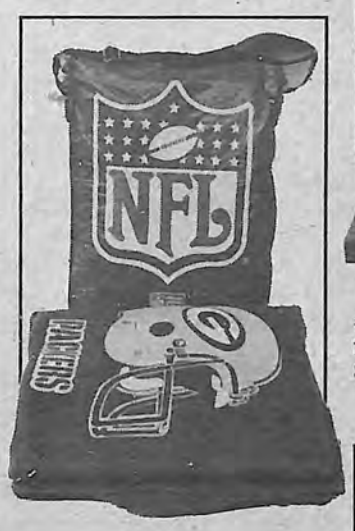

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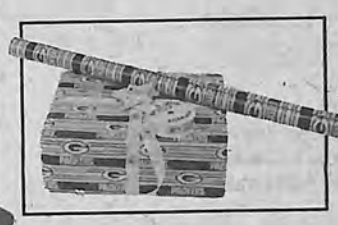

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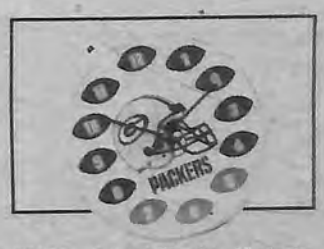

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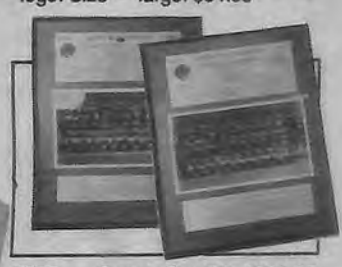

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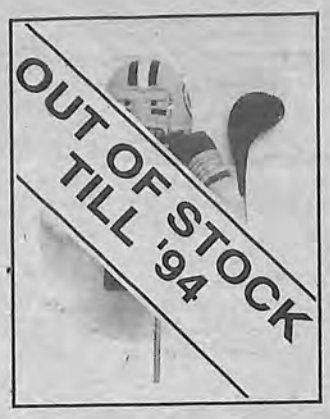

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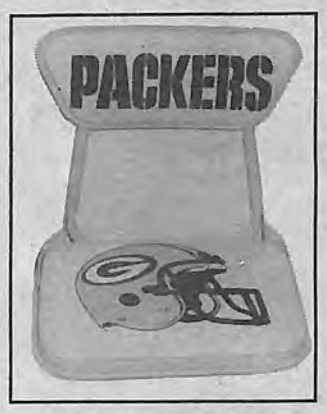

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Week 1

Sunday, Sept. 5
N.Y. Giants 26, Bears 20
Detroit 30, Atlanta 13
Cleveland 27, Cincinnati 14
PACKERS 36, L.A. Rams 6
Denver 26, N.Y. Jets 20
Kansas City 27, Tampa Bay 3
Miami 24, Indianapolis 20
Buffalo 38, New England 14
Philadelphia 23, Phoenix 17
San Francisco 24, Pittsburgh 13
L.A. Raiders 24, Minnesota 7
San Diego 18, Seattle 12
New Orleans 33, Houston 21
Monday, Sept. 6
Washington 35, Dallas 16

Week 2

Sunday, Sept. 12
Minnesota 10, Chicago 7
N.Y. Giants 27, Tampa Bay 7
Detroit 19, New England 16, OT
Indianapolis 9, Cincinnati 6
Houston 30, Kansas City 0
New Orleans 34, Atlanta 31
Philadelphia 20, PACKERS 17
Phoenix 17, Washington 10
N.Y. Jets 24, Miami 14
L.A. Rams 27, Pittsburgh 0
Denver 34, San Diego 17
Buffalo 13, Dallas 10
L.A. Raiders 17, Seattle 13
Monday, Sept. 13
Cleveland 23, San Francisco 13

Week 3

BYE: AFC East except New England, NFC Central except Detroit
Sunday, Sept. 19
Pittsburgh 34, Cincinnati 7
New Orleans 14, Detroit 3
N.Y. Giants 20, L.A. Rams 10
Seattle 17, New England 14
Philadelphia 34, Washington 31
San Francisco 37, Atlanta 30
Cleveland 19, L.A. Raiders 16
San Diego 18, Houston 17
Dallas 17, Phoenix 10
Monday, Sept. 20
Kansas City 15, Denver 7

Week 4

Sunday, Sept. 26
BYE: AFC West except Seattle, NFC East except Phoenix
Minnesota 15, PACKERS 13
Indianapolis 23, Cleveland 10
L.A. Rams 28, Houston 13
Miami 22, Buffalo 13
Chicago 47, Tampa Bay 17
Detroit 26, Phoenix 20
New Orleans 16, San Francisco 13
Seattle 19, Cincinnati 10
N.Y. Jets 45, New England 7
Monday, Sept. 27
Pittsburgh 45, Atlanta 17

Week 5

Sunday, Oct. 3
BYE: AFC Central, New England, Phoenix
Dallas 36, PACKERS 14
Chicago 6, Atlanta 0
Tampa Bay 27, Detroit 10
Kansas City 24, L.A. Raiders 9
Denver 35, Indianapolis 13
San Francisco 38, Minnesota 19
New Orleans 37, L.A. Rams 6
Philadelphia 35, N.Y. Jets 30
Seattle 31, San Diego 14
Buffalo 17, N.Y. Giants 14
Monday, Oct. 4
Miami 17, Washington 10

Week 6

Sunday, Oct. 10
BYE: NFC West, Detroit, Seattle
PACKERS 30, Denver 27
Chicago 17, Philadelphia 6
Kansas City 17, Cincinnati 15
Dallas 27, Indianapolis 3
Miami 24, Cleveland 14
N.Y. Giants 41, Washington 7
Minnesota 15, Tampa Bay 0
Pittsburgh 16, San Diego 3
New England 23, Phoenix 21
L.A. Raiders 24, N.Y. Jets 20
Monday, Oct. 11
Buffalo 35, Houston 7

Week 7

Thursday, Oct. 14
BYE: AFC East except New England, NFC Central except Detroit
Atlanta 30, L.A. Rams 24
Sunday, Oct. 17
Cleveland 28, Cincinnati 17
Houston 28, New England 14
Pittsburgh 37, New Orleans 14
N.Y. Giants 21, Philadelphia 10
Detroit 30, Seattle 10
Phoenix 36, Washington 6
Kansas City 17, San Diego 14
Dallas 26, San Francisco 17
Monday, Oct. 18
L.A. Raiders 23, Denver 20

Week 8

Sunday, Oct. 24
BYE: AFC West except Seattle, NFC East except Phoenix
PACKERS 37, Tampa Bay 14
Atlanta 26, New Orleans 15
Buffalo 19, N.Y. Jets 10
Houston 28, Cincinnati 12
Cleveland 28, Pittsburgh 23
Detroit 16, L.A. Rams 13
Seattle 10, New England 9
San Francisco 28, Phoenix 14
Miami 41, Indianapolis 27
Monday, Oct. 25
Minnesota 19, Chicago 12

Week 9

Sunday, Oct. 31
BYE: AFC Central
PACKERS 17, Chicago 3
Miami 30, Kansas City 10
Indianapolis 9, New England 6
Tampa Bay 31, Atlanta 24
N.Y. Jets 10, N.Y. Giants 6
Dallas 23, Philadelphia 10
New Orleans 20, Phoenix 17
San Diego 30, L.A. Raiders 23
San Francisco 40, L.A. Rams 17
Denver 28, Seattle 17
Detroit 30, Minnesota 27
Monday, Nov. 1
Washington at Buffalo .....8 p.m.

Week 10

Sunday, Nov. 7
BYE: NFC West
Buffalo 13, New England 10 (OT)
Denver 29, Cleveland 14
Dallas 31, N.Y. Giants 9
Pittsburgh 24, Cincinnati 16
San Diego 30, Minnesota 17
Houston 24, Seattle 14
Detroit 23, Tampa Bay 0
L.A. Raiders 16, Chicago 14
N.Y. Jets 27, Miami 10
Phoenix 16, Philadelphia 3
Washington 30, Indianapolis 24
Monday, Nov. 8
Kansas City 23, PACKERS 16

Week 11

Sunday, Nov. 14
BYE: Detroit, New England
PACKERS 19, New Orleans 17
Houston 38, Cincinnati 3
San Francisco 45, Tampa Bay 21
Miami 19, Philadelphia 14
N.Y. Giants 20, Washington 6
Dallas 20, Phoenix 15
Kansas City 31, L.A. Raiders 20
Atlanta 13, L.A. Rams 0
Seattle 22, Cleveland 5
Minnesota 26, Denver 23
N.Y. Jets 31, Indianapolis 17
Chicago 16, San Diego 13
Monday, Nov. 15
Pittsburgh 23, Buffalo 0

Week 12

Sunday, Nov. 21
BYE: Phoenix, Seattle
PACKERS 26, Detroit 17
Chicago 19, Kansas City 17
N.Y. Jets 17, Cincinnati 12
Atlanta 27, Dallas 14
Houston 27, Cleveland 20
Buffalo 23, Indianapolis 9
Miami 17, New England 13
N.Y. Giants 7, Philadelphia 3
L.A. Raiders 12, San Diego 7
Denver 37, Pittsburgh 13
L.A. Rams 10, Washington 6
Tampa Bay 23, Minnesota 10
Monday, Nov. 22
San Francisco 42, New Orleans 7

Week 13

Thursday, Nov. 25
Chicago 10, Detroit 6
Miami 16, Dallas 14

Sunday, Nov. 28
PACKERS 13, Tampa Bay 10
Atlanta 17, Cleveland 14
Cincinnati 16, L.A. Raiders 10
New Orleans 17, Minnesota 14
Philadelphia 17, Washington 14
Denver 17, Seattle 9
Kansas City 23, Buffalo 7
N.Y. Giants 19, Phoenix 17
San Francisco 35, L.A. Rams 10
Houston 23, Pittsburgh 3
Monday, Nov. 29
San Diego at Indianapolis.....8 p.m.

Week 14

Sunday, Dec. 5
PACKERS at Bears.....Noon
Atlanta at Houston .....Noon
Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets .....Noon
L.A. Raiders at Buffalo .....Noon
Minnesota at Detroit.....Noon
New England at Pittsburgh .....Noon
New Orleans at Cleveland .....Noon
Washington at Tampa Bay.....Noon
Denver at San Diego .....3 p.m.
Kansas City at Seattle .....3 p.m.
L.A. Rams at Phoenix.....3 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Miami.....3 p.m.
Cincinnati at San Francisco.....7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 6
Philadelphia at Dallas.....8 p.m.

Week 15

Saturday, Dec. 11
N.Y. Jets at Washington.....11:30 a.m.
San Francisco at Atlanta .....3 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 12
Bears at Tampa Bay .....Noon
Buffalo at Philadelphia .....Noon
Cincinnati at New England.....Noon
Cleveland at Houston.....Noon
Indianapolis at N.Y. Giants .....Noon
L.A. Rams at New Orleans .....Noon
Dallas at Minnesota.....3 p.m.
Detroit at Phoenix.....3 p.m.
Kansas City at Denver.....3 p.m.
Seattle at L.A. Raiders.....3 p.m.
PACKERS at San Diego.....7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 13
Pittsburgh at Miami.....8 p.m.

Week 16

Saturday, Dec. 18
Denver at Bears.....11:30 a.m.
Dallas at N.Y. Jets.....3 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 19
Atlanta at Washington.....Noon
Buffalo at Miami .....Noon
Houston at Pittsburgh .....Noon
L.A. Rams at Cincinnati .....Noon
Minnesota vs. PACKERS at Milw.Noon
New England at Cleveland.....Noon
Phoenix at Seattle .....3 p.m.
San Diego at Kansas City.....3 p.m.
San Francisco at Detroit .....3 p.m.
Tampa Bay at L.A. Raiders .....3 p.m.
Philadelphia at Indianapolis.....7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 20
N.Y. Giants at New Orleans .....8 p.m.

Week 17

Saturday, Dec. 25
Houston at San Francisco .....4:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 26
Detroit at Bears.....Noon
Atlanta at Cincinnati.....Noon
Indianapolis at New England .....Noon
L.A. Raiders at PACKERS.....Noon
New Orleans at Philadelphia.....Noon
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo .....Noon
Cleveland at L.A. Rams.....3 p.m.
N.Y. Giants t Phoenix .....3 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Seattle .....3 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Denver.....3 p.m.
Washington at Dallas.....3 p.m.
Kansas City at Minnesota.....7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 27
Miami at San Diego .....8 p.m.

Week 18

Friday, Dec. 31
Minnesota at Washington .....2 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 2
Bears at L.A. Rams .....3 p.m.
Buffalo at Indianapolis.....Noon
Cleveland at Pittsburgh.....Noon
Dallas at N.Y. Giants.....Noon
PACKERS at Detroit.....Noon
Miami at New England.....Noon
Phoenix at Atlanta.....Noon
Seattle at Kansas City.....Noon
Cincinnati at New Orleans.....3 p.m.
Denver at L.A. Raiders.....3 p.m.
San Diego at Tampa Bay .....3 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Houston.....7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 3
Philadelphia at San Francisco.....8 p.m.

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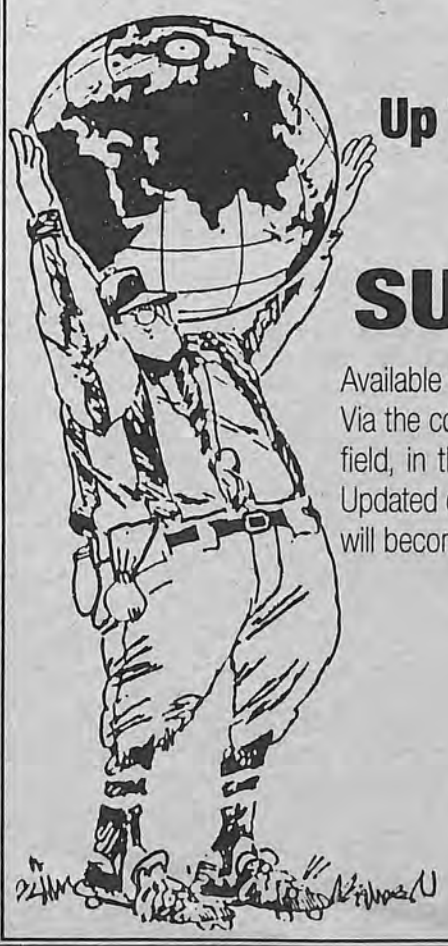

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CENTRAL ISSUES

Narrow losses cost Bears

by John Delcos

Chicago Bears

After road victories in San Diego and Kansas City to climb into wild-card contention, the Bears have to be thinking about the ones that got away.

A blown coverage in the final minute cost them against the New York Giants in the opener; the Bears lost both games to Minnesota by a composite 10 points; Kevin Butler's missed field-goal attempt was the difference in the loss to the Los Angeles Raiders.

Excluding their listless 17-3 loss in Green Bay, the Bears had lost four games by a combined 18 points.

INJURIES: CB Anthony Blaylock (finger), FB Bob Christian (mono).

SCOUTING REPORT: Green Bay. The extra three days of rest should help. ... QB Jim Harbaugh hasn't proven he can carry the Bears with his arm, so they need big games from Tim Worley and Neal Anderson. ... Chicago won't win a high-scoring game. ... It could come down to a field-goal duel between Kevin Butler and Chris Jacke. ... Key match-up: CB Donnell Woolford vs. Green Bay WR Sterling Sharpe. ... The Bears want to force Green Bay QB Brett Favre in long-yardage passing situations and hope DE Richard Dent applies pressure.

SCHEDULE: NY Giants (L, 26-20), at Minnesota (L, 10-7), Tampa Bay (W, 47-17), Atlanta (W, 6-0), at Philadelphia (W, 17-6), Minnesota (Mon, L, 19-12), at Green Bay (L, 17-3), LA Raiders (L, 16-14), at San Diego (W, 16-13), at Kansas City (W, 19-17), at Detroit (Thanks), Green Bay, at Tampa Bay, Denver (Sat), Detroit, at LA Rams.

Detroit Lions

Although the Lions missed an opportunity to open up a three-game edge on Green Bay, they still have the feeling they can win the NFC Central for the second time in three seasons.

The reason: A fifth-place schedule courtesy of last year's collapse.

"Look at our schedule," said offensive tackle Lomas Brown. "We're in control. Forget about what everyone else is doing. All we have to do is take care of business. If we don't, those other teams will start creeping up on us and we'll start looking over our shoulders."

That has already happened.

"We had these guys, we really had these guys and we just didn't put them away," said WR Herman Moore after the disappointing loss to the Packers. "I've never known of teams like Dallas easing up when they were close to putting teams away. Never. But we let up. We have to start putting people away. No one's ever going to have any respect for us until we learn to put people away. We can't ask for respect. We have to go out and earn it."

When RB Barry Sanders rushed for 75 yards against Green Bay, he became the third player to rush for 1,000 yards in each of his first five seasons. The others are Eric Dickerson and Tony Dorsett.

INJURIES: KR Mel Gray (ankle), S Bennie Blades (ankle), WR Willie Green (hip), G Dave Lutz (hamstring).

SCOUTING REPORT: Minnesota. If the Lions are put in the position of playing catch-up, it could neutralize RB Barry Sanders, especially on the ground. Sanders carried only four times in the second half in the nine-point loss at Green Bay. ... LB Chris Spielman is having another Pro Bowl year. ... QB Rodney Peete hasn't proven he's a come-from-behind passer. ... WR Herman Moore caught two passes for eight yards vs. Green Bay. He has to come up bigger than that this time.

Minnesota Vikings

This one hurt.

Knowing Detroit had lost earlier in the day, the Vikings missed an opportunity to pull within one game of the Lions with a 23-10 loss in Tampa Bay.

"We never took charge," explained coach Dennis Green. "Tampa Bay outplayed us in every phase of the game."

How can this be?

How can a team which needed a win, play so poorly against a team it had swept in four of the last five years?

There were no answers, just sickly numbers: 1) QB Sean Salisbury, in for the injured Jim McMahon, threw for 161 yards and was intercepted twice, including one that was returned for a TD; and 2) 82 yards rushing.

Chris Doleman, Roy Baker, John Randle and Henry Thomas have combined for 24 sacks, more than 18 teams.

INJURIES: QB Jim McMahon (shoulder), WR Anthony Carter (back), LB Ed McDaniel (shoulder), DT Esera Tuaolo (hamstring).

SCOUTING REPORT: At Detroit. If the Lions are put in the position of playing catch-up, it could neutralize RB Barry Sanders, especially on the ground. Sanders carried only four times in the second half in the nine-point loss at Green Bay. ... LB Chris Spielman is having another Pro Bowl year. ... QB Rodney Peete hasn't proven he's a come-from-behind passer. ... WR Herman Moore caught two passes for eight years vs. Green Bay. He has to come up bigger than that this time.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

While the rest of the division is in playoff contention, the Bucs have long forgotten about the postseason; they have scuttled 1993 and have begun to look toward the future. And the future is spelled Craig Erickson.

Erickson threw for 239 yards without an interception in the upset of Minnesota, and coach Sam Wyche said progress is definitely being made.

"School is still out," said Wyche, "but I certainly like the way he's been playing lately. Usually by this time a player either has it or he's shown some weakness in some areas. Craig hasn't shown us any real weakness, yet."

INJURIES: RB Reggie Cobb (knee), OT Paul Gruber (groin), LB Demetrius DuBose (knee), NT Mark Wheeler (knee), LB Hardy Nickerson (neck), NT Bernard Wilson (ankle), TE Ron Hall (neck), WR Courtney Hawkins (heel), LB Broderick Thomas (neck).

SCOUTING REPORT: Washington. Redskins, still hampered by injuries, have been struggling. QB Mark Rypien is vulnerable to the rush with several of his offensive linemen hurt.

SCHEDULE: Kansas City (L, 27-3), at NY Giants (L, 27-7), at Chicago (L, 47-17), Detroit (W, 27-10), at Minnesota (L, 15-0), Green Bay (L, 37-14), at Atlanta (W, 31-24), at Detroit (L, 23-0), San Francisco (L, 45-21), Minnesota (W, 23-10), at Green Bay, Washington, Chicago, at LA Raiders, at Denver, San Diego.

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"We don't have a tailgate party but we feel we are the only floating Packer fan club," wrote Capt. Albert D. Nelson, who works with the rest of the men pictured here aboard the Edwin H. Gott, one of the largest ore carriers on the Great Lakes. The Duluth-based ship is 2.78 football fields long, .29 football fields wide and has a capacity of 480,000 300-pound linemen.

Give Favre time

Dear Packer Report:

I just finished watching the Monday night game against the Chiefs. I am anticipating that many letters will be written which will be negative towards Brett Favre. I do believe that this game should have been a victory and that Brett had a large part in avoiding the victory. But, in my opinion, the Packers showed a lot of good things in this game and there should be positive reaction rather than negative.

Brett seemed to panic often and had a difficult time with the different situations that the defense presented. But, we do have to realize that he is not a veteran and should not be expected to make all the right decisions in only his second year as a starter.

I have seen a lot of suggestions from fans who believe that the answer is to insert Ty Detmer as the starter. This is not the answer. Although I believe Ty is an excellent quarterback, we must give Brett his chance. Creating a controversy is not the answer. Favre certainly has the skills and if we eventually want someone to take us back to the winning formula, we need to show confidence in someone.

I am very impressed by the emergence of the defense and I am glad we finally realized how important Tony Bennett is to this defense. Keep up the good work and let's support the Pack all the way.

Sincerely,
Packer fan forever,
David LaBerge
Mt. Pleasant, MI

Where have you been?

Dear Packer Report:

I started receiving your weekly a couple months back and I must say, I'm impressed. As I'm frequently out of "Packer Country," I was unaware that your magazine existed. This past year my older brother remedied that situation with a subscription mailed right to my doorstep. Iceland is the better for it.

Thanks to the armed forces radio and television network, I have been able to see an unprecedented two Packer games this year, and I hope to catch one more. As the football Gods have smiled upon me, I may even be in Milwaukee for two more!

I was just going through the Oct. 9, issue, and noticed the letter from Gene M. Van Dusen in Guam. I too have a line of Packer fan 'wanna-be's growing up around me. Most of these gentlemen generally have no preference as to who wins a game. They are from Pittsburgh, San Diego, Atlanta and 50 other cities around the country. At best, they show mild annoyance if their teams lose. That is, unless the Packers lose. Inside of all of them is a bit of the cheesehead. At the end of the Minnesota game, I'm sure I heard a collective groan shudder the barracks. Even a certain Minnesota-born person was rather upset at the final. True, they may not be "born Green Bay" fans, but it's great to see that the combined tradition and uniqueness that defines the Packers has such an effect on people.

One more thing in passing: This same issue brought up something I was again unaware of. Changing the uniform colors. You can change the time, change your socks, even change your name. Give change, make a change, or change the offensive line. But, for God's sake, I pity the man that changes the green 'n' gold. He will lead a most unpleasant life.

Thanks for the time, and keep up the good writing. You have a new subscriber for life.

Michael P. Krzynski
Keflavic NAS, Iceland

You see Michael, you're never really out of "Packer country."

— Ed.

Attitude

I'm a teacher at an inner city school, (Lorenzo White's alma mater). The students are aware that the only way to escape poverty is a college degree and/or sports scholarship.

As a teacher, I'll help students during lunch and after school. Some teachers only work contract time.

I'm sure Sterling had teachers with a "good attitude." I only hope my students take my good attitude, and convert it into "doing the right thing."

So, Sterling, do the right thing and sign a few autographs.

Linda Eferstein
Sunrise, FL

A personal letter to Mr. Owen

Dear David,

After reading your letter in the Nov. 20, issue of the Packer Report, I couldn't help but to slip into my office and write concerning your expressions with the current debate over a change in uniform colors.

Firstly, I'm impressed with your credentials of being a lifelong Packer Backer and all. However, I do not feel the need to extrapolate on my qualifications as a fan. Being a true Packer Backer is a way of life and not a bragging right.

Secondly, and I hope I speak for a majority of Packer fans out there, I was deeply insulted and somewhat angered at your characterization of the current Packer uniforms as being "ugly" and "the worst in the league." Now, maybe a few are still suffering from color hallucinations of the 60's, but for the rest of us, there is nothing quite like being at the stadium and watching the Packers march out of the tunnel decked out in their green and gold.

In addition, you stated the Packer fans "deserve" a color change. Well, what I deserve as a Packer fan is a winning season or at least good execution. Not some Madison Avenue marketing whiz telling me the Pack would look better in metallic gold.

The question to ask is, would the Celtics, Cubs or even the Fighting Irish contemplate such a serious overhaul of a uniform? No, because they have built great traditions (some with losing records) with their uniforms and continue to build with what got them there. In my opinion, the Packers can choose to build upon their great tradition, or can veer off and go the way of less established franchises and choose a color change, i.e. New England/Atlanta.

Coach Holmgren should know what happens when an established franchise tries to change colors or insignias of their uniforms. In San Francisco, the ownership attempted a change in helmet design when George Seifert took the reigns as head coach. The decision was a public relations nightmare and cost everyone in the Bay area that special bonding the fans thought they had with their team. Needless to say, the ownership dropped the idea at the last minute, but not without costing the franchise a deteriorating base of loyal fan support.

As a final note, from one ASU and Packer fan to another, godspeed to Brian Noble, we miss you. Holding our own down here in Bear country.

Sincerely,
Bradley J. Quittschreiber
Rockford, IL

P.S. Packer fans, just like players, fans have to keep an upbeat positive attitude. If we can, good things are bound to happen.

What happened in San Francisco may well happen here.

— Ed.

Run to set up pass

Dear Packer Report:

After watching another frustrating loss, this time to the Chiefs on Monday night, a couple of questions leave me in limbo. (1) It's obvious that we use the short passing game to substitute for our running game. Why don't we stretch the defense by throwing some fly and post patterns during the game?

It would loosen the defensive backs and allow the receivers to run their five-yard patterns.

(2) Why not run the ball? Darrell Thompson is a tough back who can have big games if we just give him the ball. The Cowboys, Giants, and Bills are successful because their running game sets up their passing game. A good running game would also take the pressure off Brett Favre because the defense would not be able to blitz as much as they do.

The defense is great. White, Paup, Holland, and Butler are all having "Pro Bowl" seasons. It's great to see the defense intimidating again! Keep your heads up Green and Gold, the ball will soon start bouncing our way!

A Packer Backer for 25 years!
Todd Benner
Selinsgrove, PA

More letters

No leather helmets?

Dear Packer Report,

What is it with Packer fans and the uproar over the change in team colors? Frankly, I wouldn't care if the team decided to play in pink tutus, just give me a competitive product on the field.

I don't buy those arguments about tradition and that bit about uniforms being more than what you wear on game day. The only tradition the Pack has known now for more than 25 years is losing football. I'm surprised some of you traditionalists ever let the Packers change from leather helmets and leave Old City Stadium.

I know what I'm saying may sound sacrilegious to some, and they're entitled to their opinion, but the sixties are over! Let's get out of this time warp. Believe me, Lombardi is not going to spin in his grave. I've been a Packer fan since 1963, so I've experienced my share of losing football. Won-loss records of 4-12 and 6-10 get me much more upset than a different shade of gold in the uniform. I'm not going to disown my beloved Packers over this. We are experiencing a new era in Packer history in less than two years, Wolf and Holmgren have assembled a Packer team that is playoff caliber. If changing the team's colors can get the Pack to the Super Bowl, I predict the Packer Pro Shop on Lombardi Avenue would soon have a heavy demand for pink tutus!

A Packer fan forever,
(And I mean forever!)
Patrick Vivalo
Manville, NJ

I'm having a really, really difficult time congering up a mental picture of Tootie Robbins in a pink tutu.

— Ed.

Thanks, Green Bay

To The Editor:

I need to express a heartfelt thank you to the people of Green Bay. I was raised outside Marinette, Wis. in the township of Porterfield. My dad was a big Packer fan. He took me to all the games he could get tickets for. We moved to South Dakota in 1979, I haven't been back since.

I received the opportunity to attend the Packers-Eagles game. I had a wonderful time. The tailgates were fabulous. The people sitting beside us greeted us with handshakes and high fives. It was a tremendous experience for my friend and I.

I read a lot of negative letters being sent to the Packer Report. These are the people that should attend a game at Lambeau Field. The tradition in the air gave me a feeling I will never forget. I hope to attend, at least, one game every year until my name is up for season tickets.

Thanks Ray for the Packer Report. Thank you, citizens of Green Bay, for making us feel welcome during our stay. The Packers have outstanding fan support and unlike some of them, I will always love the Packers no matter what. I do not take the team for granted. Green Bay is a beautiful town of wonderful people with a great organization. Thanks for the memories.

A Packer Backer for life,
Dave Roesler
Lennox, SD

Lock Bennett up

Packer fans temporarily rejoiced when they learned of the recent signing of Tony Bennett. This was until they learned that he will undoubtedly become an unrestricted free agent next season. Here we go again! Are we going to lose another dominating defensive player because we could not figure out his worth?

Do names like Ted Hendricks, Tim Harris, and Bruce Clark ring a bell? Packer fans should act now to prevent this from happening. Packer fans know how important Tony Bennett is to the defensive scheme, but I guess some members of the Packer organization don't.

I, for one, would like to know how they evaluated Tony's performance in determining his contract worth. Maybe it's time they discard the abacus in favor of something more modern. Come on, Mr. Wolf. Let's keep the negotiations going and get Tony signed to a long-term contract before the season ends. If we don't, undoubtedly his return to Lambeau Field will be in a different colored uniform.

We're turning the season around right now. With Tony's return the immediate future looks much brighter. Let's show Packer fans nationwide, that with the stroke of a pen, there truly is a new level of thought and a desire to win in Titletown, U.S.A.

Bill Salli,
Waunakee, WI

Past, present will come together

Dear Packer Report,

From time to time my wife gets after me and tells me I need to stop living in the past. I still like listening to oldies, "The Andy Griffith Show" is still the best half hour on TV, and I won't let go of the ties with the Packers.

Being born in '54, I feel in a small way I grew up with the Packers; watching them in the early 60s at my dad's feet, fighting with my friends "Who's the Best" Johnny Unitas or Bart Starr.

Living in North Carolina I've never been to a Packer game but in 1972 I thought I might finally get a chance to see them up close. That year they made it to the playoffs. I almost fell over when I heard that they were going to be in town to practice at the local college field. Groves Stadium, home for Wake Forest University. No such luck, the practices were closed. I should have known. I went by the motel where they were staying to get a peek. Ran off twice by security guards.

But I was lucky enough to wait on John Brockington and MacArthur Lane when they stopped in together to get a hamburger at a restaurant I worked in, a block from where the team was staying.

This past spring I was lucky enough to get to talk to and shake the hand of one of my all-time favorites, Jim Taylor. He was in town for the Crosby, a golf tournament, put on to raise money for different needs. The man's still in great shape. I wouldn't have been anymore nervous if I had met the President himself.

Some day soon, maybe not this year, maybe not next year, but the Packers will win again and I mean win it all. And when they do, the past and present can come together as one. And I can say as I've always said "the Packers are my team."

A Packer fan always,
Eddie Livengood
Winston-Salem, NC

PACKER WANT ADS

If there is a Packer item you've got to get your hands on; if you want to find a place to watch your favorites or if you can help out fellow diehards, your request or offer will be printed free of charge on a space-available basis.

All ads must be mailed to: Want Ads, Packer Report, P.O. Box 9605, Green Bay, WI 54308-9605.

WATCH THE PACKERS in Rhode Island at Bobby Valentine's Sports Gallery Cafe in Newport. Phone Brian or Jimmy, (401) 847-7678.

WANTED: Ticket or ticket stub from "Ice Bowl" NFL Championship game Dec. 31, 1967. Kenny Chollett; 12818 Josephine ST; Omaha NB 68138. Phone (402) 896-0232.

WANTED: VHS copies of Oct. 24 Bucs and Sept. 5 Rams game.Will pay reasonable prices. Wayne Baumgardner 513 Wildindigo Run; Westerville OH 43081.

WANTED: A place to watch GBP games in Kansas City. Lynn Dickey's has closed and one spot on the north side has been unreliable Our large group needs a new home! Phone Dick Palm, (913) 469-0757.

WANTED: VHS tape of Nov. 14 Saints game. Phone Barbara (901) 276-1565.

WANTED: Any Ray Nitschke cards, picture or other memorabilia. Bill Gingher; 10924 Seacrist RD; Beloit OH 44609. Call collect after 6 p.m. (216) 584-2590.

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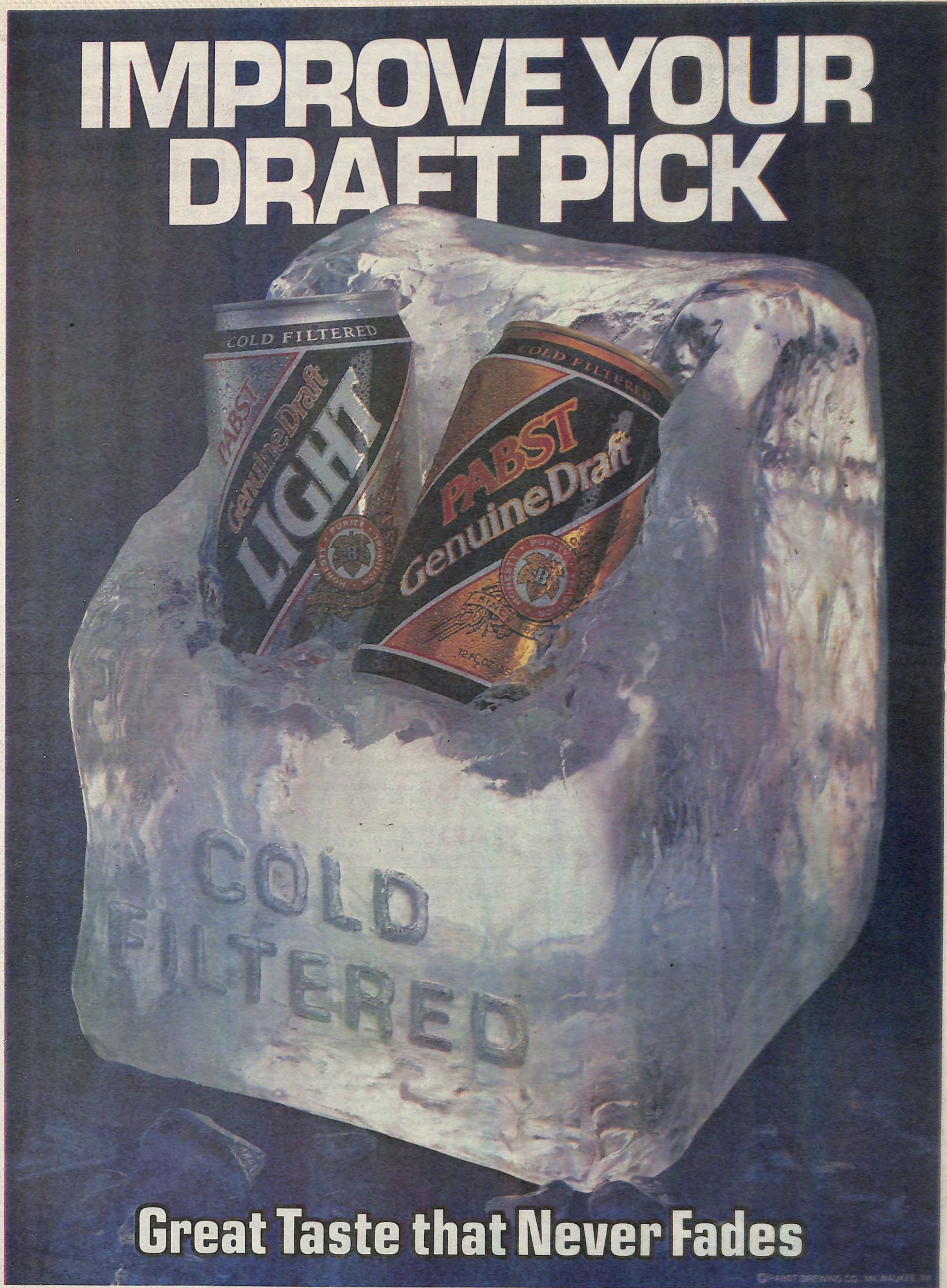

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